

The Week

HOME 1-5
Ulster merger finally approved
Rayner tells research councils to cut
their costs
NAB relaxes course approval
Science policy unit bailed out by
SSRC

OVERSEAS 6-7
Australian research projects hit
despite budget increase
Black students clash with South
African police
Engineering teachers in short
supply in American colleges
Lebanese universities work under
siege
Swedish students complain of
inadequate loans

ARTICLES 8-13
Ngao Creguer describes the
merger of Bedford and Royal
Holloway colleges in London's
reorganization, 8
Peter Scott discusses the career of
the historian Lawrence Stone, 9
Olga Wajtas reports on
Stratford's Centre for Police
Studies, and Paul Flather
describes how the PhD came to
Britain, 10
David Head discusses the
gathering crisis of the welfare
state and the threat of wholesale
privatization, 11
Ruth Ward describes that rapidly
increasing academic apathy, the
part-time teacher, and Leslie
Gillespie takes a literary tour
through America's Deep South, 12
Ian Glover and Ruth Seltrick look
at the politics of social science's
language, and John Field
discusses public records, 13

REVIEWS 14-16
Ernst Mayr's *The Growth of
Biological Thought* 14
Ian McLean discusses theories of
decentralism in British politics
and Michael Rose reviews a study
of strikes in Europe and the
United States (15), and Roy
Douglas discusses Britain's
declining world influence and
Richard Bessel reviews Conan
Fletcher's new book on Nazi
stormtroopers (16)

EDUCATION BOOKS 17-21
Lawrence Stenhouse, video, PhDs,
sexism, comprehensives and the
Leavers inquiry are the
subjects of new books in
education

NOTICEBOARD 22

CLASSIFIED INDEX 23

OPINION 30-32
Tessa Blackstone discusses "Yah-
people" Ian Wrigglesworth MP
looks at the fading of the Robbins
Award; and Don't a Diary from
Ann Casling of the Newcastle
College of Arts and Technology, 30
Letters on town-gown relations,
Karl Popper, Peter Sedgwick,
and Mrs Thatcher's science
seminar, 31

Next Week

Michael Posner's farewell to the
SSRC
John Cruickshank on Richard
Cobb
The Oxford Movement
Eight pages of new economics books



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Quality or access?

The formal views of the Council for National Academic Awards and the informal views of the National Advisory Body's officers for the reorganization of the polytechnics and colleges both tend towards the same conclusion. These proposals as they stand place too much emphasis on the need to maintain regional balance and to enhance opportunities for part-time students, which in many cases of course are the same thing, and too little on academic quality.

This criticism will come as no surprise to the NAB. Both the CNA and the Inspectorate are national agencies very much committed to quality. The former is bound to take a partial view of the present NAB exercise if only because it has only a partial responsibility, for degrees rather than the whole range of advanced courses. The latter is the product of a century-old tradition of vigilance about quality. It would hardly be reasonable to expect the Inspectorate, whose role in education since the days of Matthew Arnold has been to discipline the diversity of localism in the cause of national standards to take a different view.

So, the NAB may be tempted to discount the predictable criticisms of both the CNA and the Inspectorate. What else could the Council say but "the proposals of the NAB officers do not necessarily reflect or exploit the achievements and strengths of the institutions validated by the CNA"? As for the Inspectorate, its preference for a top-down rather than bottom-up planning strategy for polytechnics and colleges add for the concentration of advanced further education in a few

than a year ago in his speech to the annual conference of the Council of Local Education Authorities in Sheffield that academic quality should not always be the predominant criterion in planning non-university higher education; in many cases accessibility and comprehensiveness should be given as much weight. Subsequently the NAB has translated Mr Ball's general principles into operational policies, in the form of regional balance, subject mix and the encouragement of part-time and sub-degree courses. It is on these that the present NAB exercise has been built.

However there are two complications. The first is that the CNA and the Inspectorate are the two most important agencies on which the NAB relies for academic intelligence. In theory of course the advice of the CNA should be complemented by the advice received from the Business and Technician Education Council and other validating bodies, but in practice the sophistication and status of the CNA is such that its advice will dominate that of the others. The Inspectorate's advice also presents difficulties; it is patchy in quality and coverage and it has axes of its own to grind.

But if the advice from the CNA is partial and that from the Inspectorate potentially biased where does the NAB turn for academic intelligence that is comprehensive, in the sense that it covers off advanced courses without a bias towards degrees, and neutral, in the sense it is consistent with the overt policy of the NAB rather than the covert policy of the Inspectorate? In the long run the NAB will probably

imply a shrinking in the role of the CNA and the possibility of conflict with the Inspectorate, it will have to be handled with great delicacy.

The second complication is that for the NAB to discount the criticisms of the CNA and the Inspectorate would be to muzzle the great debate about the future direction of non-university higher education. The issue at the heart of this debate is simple enough: should advanced further education be concentrated in fewer larger institutions able to hold their ground against the universities, or should it remain dispersed, across many institutions in order to maximize opportunities for potential students? Quality or access - it is the very issue with which the universities also are grappling although in a different form.

This question was never satisfactorily answered in 1966 when the polytechnics were first conceived. The White Paper of that year was clear that full-time courses should be concentrated but failed to come to a clear conclusion about part-time courses, despite the fact that the two often "piggy-back". Today the question has clear political implications: concentration leads to national control, decentralization to continued local authority involvement.

Against a background of growing numbers of relatively immobile, mature students and increasing on-campus education the NAB plan leans towards decentralization; the CNA and the Inspectorate's criticisms suggest that it should lean the other way. Although the present planning exercise does not

out this fundamental choice, it should nevertheless always be kept in mind.

A test-bed in Ulster

The politics of amalgamating the New University of Ulster and Ulster Polytechnic have been hairy all times. On more than one occasion breakdown seemed close. The university was torn between a Verdun-style defence of its present status and swift capitulation to avoid the long casualty lists that would accompany such a defence. The Northern Ireland Office, reported to bluster and threats. Important issues such as the appointment of a vice-chancellor and the quality of academic democracy within the merged institution had to be considered against this difficult background in an acrimonious atmosphere hostile to calm consensus.

But with last week's vote by the university court confirming its decision earlier in the summer to accept the merger - which itself reversed an earlier vote of defiance - there seems to be a happy ending; as happy as endings can be under present conditions in Northern Ireland. The lessons of the last year, particularly the important precedent that university charters are a feeble defence against a determined Government and the evidence of the preposterous style of government increasingly popular in Northern Ireland, should not be forgotten. But for the new university that particular chapter is closed.

Now that the principle of a merger has been accepted and its broad principles agreed the next stage is to build a successful new institution. It will be a difficult task for two reasons. First, it will be the United Kingdom's first polytechnic - offering a full range of degree and non-degree, full and part-time courses, initial and continuing education. Second, it will be a dispersed university with three main campuses in Belfast, Coleraine and Londonderry. But although a difficult task, it will also be a positive task. The hard work of institution-building may help the acrimonious memories of recent months to fade. The future looks much brighter than the immediate past.

The Ulster merger has a significance that extends beyond the borders of Northern Ireland. In the 1980s amalgamations may become increasingly common - and between relatively equal partners not the thinly disguised takeovers of small by large colleges which have been the reorganization of teacher education in the 1970s. Next

month the Inner London Education Authority will consider a proposal to amalgamate the Polytechnic of Central London and the City of London Polytechnic. So any experience gained in Northern Ireland about the nuts and bolts of amalgamation will be immensely useful.

However the overriding significance of the Ulster merger is that it will produce a polytechnic, the first genuine transboundary institution in the United Kingdom. All kinds of powerful myths about "academic drift" and polytechnic virtue are to be put to a practical test. Even more significant perhaps is the question of whether Ulster will be the first of many polytechnics that will break up the binary log-jam. At present the messages from both the Department of Education and Science (and the Scottish Education Department) and the University Grants Committee are ambiguous. Some stress the uniqueness of the Ulster situation; others suggest that a Scottish or English polytechnic is just round the corner. But both show that the Ulster experiment is already the object of careful scrutiny.

What's in a name?

Preston Polytechnic, Corporation Street, Cocketown, sorry, Preston - is soon to become Lancashire Polytechnic, Pylde Road. To some this heralds the evidence of incoherent academic drift; to others evidence of a county-wide scope (and of course its paymaster). But name changes are always tricky: they lead to inevitable confusion and they are often interpreted as powerful signs of institutional direction that an institution wishes to follow. So Preston may be sharing with the Fenland Lancashire of mills for the coastal Lancashire of heavy suburbia.

Some names have to be changed. Coventry Polytechnic came to its present name by a necessary consequence: the only former college of advanced technology to retain the handle "University" in its new title - incidentally securing the favour of the University Grants Committee in July 1981, which may prove that what the university establishment most dislikes about technological universities is not their humble origins but their aspiring ambitions. Why is the University of Warwick not the University of Coventry? Why does the City University presently in the City of London when its original names as political objects made a fascinating game.

But not all name changes are so necessary. Why was Loughborough the only former college of advanced technology to retain the handle "University" in its new title - incidentally securing the favour of the University Grants Committee in July 1981, which may prove that what the university establishment most dislikes about technological universities is not their humble origins but their aspiring ambitions. Why is the University of Warwick not the University of Coventry? Why does the City University presently in the City of London when its original names as political objects made a fascinating game.

Laurie Taylor



May I first of all say that I think we had what can only be described as an outstandingly successful conference. (Cries of "Hear, Hear", and "Yes, about Charlie Odgers falling in the bath on Friday night")

Well, apart, that is, from Charlie Odgers' unfortunate little accident. (Loud boorish laughter)

But to speak seriously for a moment. When your committee first met that the theme for this year's conference should be *Post-Structuralism: Information Technology: Consequences and Prospects*, we agreed larger attendance and a good deal of intellectual cut and thrust, but of course, as always, a highly social occasion. And I think exactly what we've all had over the three days.

So let me straight away offer a profound vote of thanks to Professor Lapping. I think it's all too easy to say. On the face of it, the job of a speaker only involves writing a letter to the eight people selected by the committee. But as anyone who has tackled this particular task knows too well, that's only the beginning. There's also the whole business of actually opening the letters at the meeting and reading them. So my thanks to Professor Lapping for that.

Also, of course, let me as usual, thank Dr Wernitz and his team of volunteers for all the very hard work they did photocopying the three papers which were made available in advance to speakers. This is just the sort of backroom work which can so easily be overlooked. So, thank you Dr Wernitz, and perhaps you'd be good enough to convey our thanks in a usual way to your charming assistant. (Stupid vulgar shout of "Charlie Odgers has done that already!" Catches laughter.)

And, as usual, may I also thank all the speakers. First of all for actually turning up, but also for the promptness with which they arrived at their own sessions and the general clarity of expression which they brought to the most arduous task of reading out loud notes for nearly 30 minutes. Many thanks to them.

May I also take this opportunity to thank our team of chairmen who have not only been happy to sing the praises of a couple of vague phrases, but also the beginning of each session by having been ready to call for questions at the end. Thank you gentlemen. And last but by no means least, my thanks all of you out there.

Swiss franc puts squeeze on SERC



By Jon Turney
Science Correspondent

The squeeze on the Science and Engineering Research Council from its overseas subscriptions is tightening and the council, backed by the Advisory Board for the Research Councils, is now looking to the Department of Education and Science to bail it out next year.

There is now little prospect of immediate relief from the Treasury-chaired working party set up earlier this summer to consider the general problem after SERC had to find an extra £4m at short notice to meet its subscription to the European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva. The working party is likely to recommend more drastic arrangements for SERC to carry over money from one year's budget to the next when foreign exchange rates shift. But it will not offer extra money directly.

Meanwhile, the focus has shifted to HEDS, where the Secretary of State, Sir Keith Joseph, is now considering a bid for more money for SERC's forecast payments in this year's "forward" recommendations from the Treasury. The council's problem with the Treasury is that its contribution is due to rise from 14 per cent to 16.1 per cent of the centre's £200m budget.

This rise, due because national contributions to CERN take account of changes in the gross domestic product of the subscribing countries, will take next year's payment to 110m Swiss francs - or £34.6m at current rates. This could be a crippling blow for domestic spending by the SERC's nuclear physics board, which disposes of around £50m a year. This year, the council edged the extra £4m needed by cutting £1m from the budgets of each of its four boards. But a decision has been taken in principle to take any further cuts from the board most directly involved.

There are two reasons for guarded optimism. The SERC chairman, Professor John Kingman's forceful plea for protection of the real value of the science budget at the recent Lancaster conference on industry and education. And all parties agree that the science party on foreign payments has made the Treasury more ready to acknowledge the gravity of the problem.

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Michael Posner's
farewell, 11

John Cruickshank on
Richard Cobb, 13

The Oxford Movement:
150 years on, 10

Middlesex Poly's
summer school, 9

Make room for shortfall, urges DES

by Ngao Creguer

Universities have been urged by the Department of Education and Science to admit 4,000 to 5,000 extra students next year and the year after to make up the shortage of places created by new restrictions on entry to polytechnics and colleges.

The National Advisory Body's decision to limit the number of polytechnic and colleges places to 256,000 could mean that up to 7,000 students could be denied places. The DES has been concerned about this potential reduction of opportunity.

A confidential letter from the DES, signed by Mr Richard Bird, deputy secretary in the department, and setting out the new advice to admit more students, was considered by the University Grants Committee at its annual residential "retreat" in Oxford last weekend. Sir Edward Parkes, retiring chairman of the UGC, passed on its message to the annual meeting of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals in London on Wednesday.

The UGC also discussed whether the universities should be encouraged to maintain their present number of students up to the end of the 1980s despite the sharp fall in the size of the age group. If

they did so, the number of students in polytechnics and colleges would almost certainly fall substantially.

Some members of the committee were angry about this second letter but it will be up to individual universities to decide whether they want to take more students, or to protect their unit of resource and thereby continue to follow UGC policy.

Much of the time of the UGC retreat however was spent discussing the earlier letter dated September 1, in which Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary, asked the universities to consider how they would respond to reductions in funding, and what fundamental changes were needed in structures. The members threw out the first draft by officials of a letter to go to the universities because it was too narrow. It asked how the universities would react to a drop in the unit of resource, and how would they cope with less money generally.

Instead the committee ruled that universities must face and answer all the specific issues in Sir Keith's letter. A new draft is now being written and this will go to the October meeting of the committee, and if approved, then to the universities.

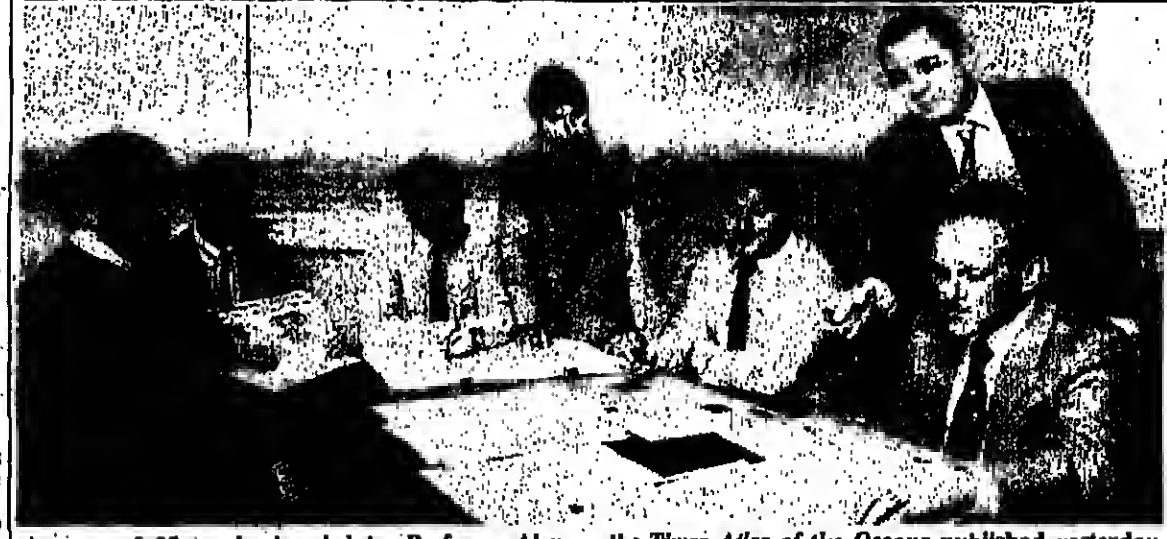
So all the pre-1981 issues are back on the agenda, and more besides. These include: a three-tier system with the best universities concentrating on research, a middle grouping maintaining the traditional mix between teaching and research and the least prestigious emphasizing teaching.

Greater diversity in the length of courses, more two-year courses in particular; greater collaboration with other universities, and also the public sector, including full-scale mergers; and more earmarking of research money.

The letter will not just pass on Sir Keith's ideas but will have the UGC's own slant on them. They will be asked to consider various financial scenarios and also "what kind of institutions they would like to be".

It was agreed that the UGC should try to make the great debate as open as possible, and they will make some of their internal papers more readily available.

But they were also concerned about their own cuts in staff, and stretched resources and considered whether, in the interests of economy, they should curtail visitations.



A team of 28 academics, led by Professor Alan Cooper (third from left) head of the department of maritime studies at the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, collaborated to produce

The *Times Atlas of the Oceans* published yesterday. The members of the team were mostly from UWIST, some pictured above. The book, conceived five years ago, is published by Times Books, £30.

HMI report sounds warning on staff

by John O'Leary

Budget cuts in polytechnics and colleges have delayed the introduction of much-needed young staff and led to a slackening of effort on research, according to Her Majesty's Inspectorate's biggest ever analysis of higher education.

The HMI report, *Degree courses in the public sector of higher education* published this week, draws on a scrutiny of 100 polytechnic and college degree courses over four years.

Although generally complimentary about the institutions, it is critical of some teaching methods and sounds a warning note about future staff development. "If the public sector is to make its distinctive educational contribution, which has at times been a major one, it is shared with university provision; the professional qualifications and updating of its teaching staff, most of whom are well-qualified academically, are crucial," the report concludes.

up-to-date industrial experience is a matter of priority, constituting a fresh call on the existing close working arrangements between education and industry.

Inspectors also found a disparity in the level of resources in science subjects between the polytechnics and other colleges. One example of the damage done to the science curriculum in the colleges and institutes was the absence of molecular and subcellular

Continued on Page 3

Nuffield sponsors languages inquiry

by Paul Flather

The first national inquiry into the aims and range of language teaching in secondary schools and universities, polytechnics, and colleges, is to be launched later this autumn by the Nuffield Foundation.

The inquiry, likely to have a £50,000 initial budget, comes at a time of increasing concern about the effects of education cuts on language provision, and the lack of coordination between the secondary and tertiary levels of education.

No answer on cash before NAB debate

The crucial debate on the National Advisory Body's plan for a redistribution of college and polytechnic places may take place without the knowledge of how much Government money is available, Mr Peter Brooke, under-secretary for higher education warned this week.

Mr Brooke told a meeting of the NAB committee, which he chaired, that he could give no guarantee of a response to the committee's request for an additional £25m to boost next year's advanced further education pool in time for the board at its residential weekend next month. The timetable of Cabinet discussions may delay the decision until November.

The residential meeting is expected to produce definitive advice for the NAB committee on the plan. But now there may be further slippage in the board's timetable, which was put back by several weeks when the general election was called. If extra money is allocated after October 16, the board will have to meet again to agree adjustments before final decisions on the plan are taken a month later.

Officials at NAB completed their own final recommendations this week, having spent eight days analysing an "enormous volume" of responses in eight days. Board members will receive a parcel of more than 300 pages of agenda papers for the residential meeting at the end of next week.

Mr John Bovan, the NAB secretary, said that the responses showed three main concerns. Widespread doubts about the feasibility of the proposed increase in part-time students had been accommodated in the revised recommendations by the secretariat, while the board had already ordered further alternative funding plans to be produced.

The third main area of concern was over the regional policy of shifting provision away from London and the south-east.

The Council for National Academic Awards issued its statement on the plan at the weekend, calling for urgent talks on details of the proposed distribution of places. But its own advice on individual institutions carries the disclaimer that comparisons based on the council's responses would not be legitimate.

QMC 'would prefer a total merger'

by Ngaio Crequar

Sir James Menter, principal of Queen Mary College, has told London University that total merger with Westfield College would be more beneficial than a mere "association".

In a note to the university joint planning committee and senate he said that it had become increasingly clear to the QMC as the discussions with Westfield progressed that the full academic and financial benefits to the two colleges and the university were most likely to be realized only by a merger.

"We cannot fail to record that five of the multi-faculty schools of the university have already recognized the inevitability of this conclusion for themselves, with its concomitant site concentration," he said, although the QMC had not sought to impose that view on Westfield.

"The college would welcome a comparable initiative by Westfield College which would open up the prospect of discussing together how best to utilize the physical resources of the Mile End and Hampstead sites to our mutual advantage and to the advantage of the university," he added.

The QMC and Westfield are currently only talking about an "association" but Sir James said in the note that merger might be "inescapable and is indeed desirable on both academic and financial grounds". He would expect Westfield's residential aspects to be maintained for the benefit of the students of the merged colleges.

Westfield has not gone so far and at the same meeting, in June this year, a clear difference of view emerged as to where the humanities or arts faculty of the two colleges should be sited.

Dr Bryan Thwaites, outgoing principal of Westfield, argued that the humanities should be concentrated there because there was more space, their excellence had been recognized and there was a need for effective deployment of teaching resources.

But Sir James said there was neither academic nor financial logic in this. It would hit teaching and research in other QMC faculties, arts staff and students would lose the benefit of working in a multi-faculty environment and it would be uneconomic.

Meanwhile the QMC is continuing to talk to Goldsmiths' College. A collaborative planning committee is reviewing the present physical, financial and administrative arrangements of the two colleges to determine which form of association would be best. By November this year it must propose a strategy for the next five years and bear in mind the Westfield talks.

An earlier joint working party ruled that both colleges were committed to continue on their present sites and neither could house the other. But this would not be a bar to working on two sites.

The Goldsmiths' committee on the future status of the college has recommended to the college delegacy that it should retain direct Department of Education and Science funding for as long as possible to keep future options open. But in aspiring towards university status it should not object to being funded by the University Grants Committee.

It has also recommended that though negotiations with the QMC should be pursued with vigour, other alternative solutions should still be kept under review.

Poly staff hostile to report

by David Jobbins

General hostility towards two-year degree courses as proposed in this year's Leverhulme study report surfaced this week among polytechnic lecturers.

A consensus among lecturers taking part in a London seminar organized by the Association of Polytechnic Teachers, was that, far from widening opportunities, two-year degrees could be a vehicle for creating a two-tier system with universities retaining three-year courses, while the public sector was coerced into two-year degrees.

They remained unconvinced by the argument that two-year degrees would liberate resources which could be used to widen opportunities. And they predicted that the proposals would be unacceptable to professional bodies and confusing for prospective employers.

Equally, there was scepticism over Leverhulme's suggestion that loans could be used to finance students undertaking further years of study to obtain specialist degrees, although no one was prepared to argue that the present means-tested grant was perfect.

Despite the critical tone from APT leaders, the views expressed are likely to prove valuable to the Society for Research into Higher Education as part of the discussions it hopes Leverhulme would trigger.

Many speakers voiced practical objections to two-year degrees. Mr Joe Powell, from Wolverhampton Polytechnic, said that without external assessment by the Department of Education and Science, students might be encouraged to stay on for the additional honours part of the course by staff.

He added that two-year degrees would prove unacceptable to Britain's European partners and hinder mobility of students.

And Mr Alan Gaudin, from Coventry Polytechnic, warned of the effects on staff morale if they were deprived of the stimulus of teaching third-year honours classes.

On loans, Mr Powell predicted an increased drop-out rate in the third and fourth years, while Dr Andrew Hawkins, assistant education officer for Devon, expressed the view that loans were bound to discriminate in favour of universities who maintained three-year degrees and selected students on social, rather than academic, grounds.

Dr Tony Poligon, APT's national secretary, commented: "To increase access to higher education without maintaining quality or indeed standards, is dishonest and in the long term will undermine the whole basis of this country's competitive position in the world."

The seminar proceedings are to be published by APT later in the autumn.



This Victorian photograph of Glasgow's Sauchiehall Street is one of the 100 photographs in an exhibition of Scottish photography, George Washington Wilson.

The exhibition, with photographs selected from the Washington Wilson archive housed in Aberdeen University, runs from October 5 to 28, and is organized by John Hume and Tessa Jackson, who have also compiled a booklet of the photographs.

Parkes criticized for narrow view and hurried decisions

by John O'Leary

In the week of his retirement as chairman of the University Grants Committee, Sir Edward Parkes has been singled out for severe criticism in a new book on the cuts in higher education imposed by the last Conservative government.

Professor Maurice Kogan, head of the department of government at Brunel University, and journalist Mr David Kogan accuse the Government of adopting a policy "that was careless, ill-considered and ill-administered". Sir Edward is particularly criticised for his compliance and for the way in which the university cuts were implemented.

The book, *The Attack on Higher Education*, is critical, too, of the resistance offered by academics in other positions of responsibility. "The strongest academics did not care enough for the fate of the wanker ones, even though they must have known that those who teach in the more privileged institutions are often very similar in terms of ability to those who work in a polytechnic or in one of the less prestigious universities," the authors maintain.

Government policy, both over the university cuts and their consequences, is described as "misguided and muddled, failing to encourage rational new planning; in his latest proposals for university funding Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is said to be compelling the universities to join him in a kind of monetarist's playground in which he can indulge his ideological fantasies."

The authors do not claim that UGC could have thwarted the will of the Government but they say that committee responsible for carrying out socially indefensible policy did not believe, thereby making it credible. The universities were aged and humiliated in a way that certain to reduce the effectiveness of teaching and research.

Neither was the UGC concerned to carry out the exercise, being too objective and consultative to do so. The result, according to the book, was manifest injustice.

Sir Edward is found to have taken a narrow view of higher education despite his record as a hard-chancellor at City University. The explanation of the UGC's actions is that "the authors agree that decisions were made in a hurry and that there is an indefinable sense of uneasiness and complacent certainty of a moment running through the entire work through the *ex post facto* justification of the Committee."

They are apprehensive, too, of the results of cuts within the UGC itself. They fear that the downsizing of the UGC secretariat in the service rank of under-secretaries will encourage the filling of the posts by servants who still have no experience of promotion and may be unable to question DES policies. The year is to have been spent in the aftermath of the DES policy, when the report could afford a certain degree of independence.

The Attack on Higher Education is published by Kogan Page at £3.95.

Computer institute seeks kindly host

by Jon Turney

Science Correspondent

Professor Donald Michie, Britain's best-known pioneer in artificial intelligence, is looking for a new home for himself and an ambitious research institute.

Professor Michie holds the chair in machine intelligence at Edinburgh University. He said in London this week that he would retire from his professorship next year to devote himself full-time to the new centre. Speaking at an international computer conference he said the next step was to find a university to play host to the new laboratory, which would be funded by industry.

The centre will be known as the Turing Institute, after the British computer theorist Alan Turing, who Michie worked alongside at Bletchley during the war.

Professor Michie clearly hopes plans for the Turing Institute will be helped by the new climate of enthusiasm for artificial intelligence research prompted by the Japanese fifth generation computer programme and Britain's own Alvey programme. For advanced information technology. But his outline of the new institute is also critical of the way Alvey is organized.

He said the report which led to the Alvey programme had rejected the concept of a single information technology centre, arguing that creating fellows at existing centres was more practical and probably cheaper. Professor Michie believed the Alvey plans amounted to "a dispersed national information technology institute" and implied acceptance of the usefulness of having a centre even if not backed by public funds.

He proposed to raise core funding

for the institute from industry. Initially from a non-profit company already established in Edinburgh, Machine Intelligence Research Affiliates. Subscribers to this company's services would provide the revenue for the long-range research of the institute to begin.

Further funds would come from contracts and extensive provision for academic work. "The institute should provide places for students and staff from any UK university or polytechnic who wish to embark on work in areas where the institute is active, much as high-energy physicists go to the Rutherford Laboratory," he said.

He felt it was essential for the institute to have a special relationship with computer science and engineering departments at a nearby university, and the institute would initially offer

itself as a paying guest to an academic sponsor for five years. The main research areas would be computer architecture, automatic programming, expert systems and advanced robotics.

Support for a single leading institute also came from the conference organizers, computer consultants SPL Ltd. A report on a tour of Japan and the United States by SPL-Institut's director, Robert Muller, points out that computer research programmes in both countries feature strong technical leadership based on a central research unit, government-backed in Japan and privately funded in the States.

"Europe certainly needs a similarly strong leadership, and in our view the most effective way to achieve this is through a central research establishment," he argued.

OECD calls for clearer 16-19 policy

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has called for a major report by the end of the year to clarify trends and policies on higher education and training in member countries.

The OECD's decision stems from concern over the serious problems experienced by young people, employers and the national authorities because of the lack of a comprehensive approach to the problems of the 16-19 age group as well as lack of a clear coordinated policy in the wide range of options that exist.

The study which is to be conducted by the OECD's education committee will focus in particular on the upper secondary level and equivalent training schemes. It will examine how these evolved both in response to the needs and interests of the majority of the age group and to attempts to mould them into the initial stage for continuing and recurrent education.

The report will have three main strands. The first will be an examination of the main factors that are likely to influence the relevant education and training policies including pressures and constraints within the formal education system.

The second part will review briefly recent trends in the development of post-compulsory education and training and analyse its organization in some depth in a selected number of countries.

The final part will examine key problems and dilemmas as well as measures currently being discussed and envisaged by member countries. Among the issues which will be covered are the attitudes regarding the extension of compulsory education, and the requirements of further and higher education.

Professions urged to pay their share

by Felicity Jones

The main responsibility for continuing education should fall upon the employer, Sir Monty Finlayson told a conference at the Royal Society of Arts.

Sir Monty, chairman of the committee of inquiry into the engineering profession, was speaking to eminent members of the professions. The conference, chaired by Sir Henry Chilver, chairman of the National Advisory Body's industry committee, was on new approaches to continuing professional development.

Though it was true that governments and other state-supported institutions had a role to play, nevertheless the initiative for continuing education should fall upon the industrialist who was primarily concerned with and benefited from the professionalism of employees, he said.

The accelerated cycle of periods of intense innovation led to the demand for professionals who Sir Monty described as having "know-how, know-what, know-why, know-whom, know-how much and know-when".

But there was no single system of knowledge which could provide the



Sir Monty Finlayson: provocative speech

gross national product and nearly 14 per cent in 1980. Only continuing progressive education in the broadest sense would match the changes.

His speech provoked some of the wherewithal for the professional who in 1970 contributed 7 per cent to the architects, engineers, accountants and lawyers who were attending this first ever inter-professional conference on continuing education which had been

organized by the Continuing Professional Development Construction Group, a group of eight participating bodies in the building industry which aims to promote continuing education.

The greater responsibility for continuing education fell to the individuals, the professional institutes and government, said Mr A. Brett-Jones of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, rather than too heavily on the employer.

Three professions - the accountants, surveyors and more recently the planners - have introduced mandatory continuing updating in some form as a prerequisite for continued membership of the profession.

The Royal Town Planning Institute is committed to a two-year experiment from next year making it obligatory for all members to undertake at least 50 hours of continuing education.

Sir Monty clarified his position and said he meant it was the role of the employer to set the environment in which continuing professional development could flourish but the resources from the institutes and government would be needed. He favoured a percentage taken from general income tax for the purpose.

Give us parity, say polys

by Patricia Santinelli

An injection of "new blood" posts and the reinstatement of the secondary BED in all subjects to restore parity with the university section is being sought by the Polytechnic Council for the Education of Teachers.

The council has told the National Advisory Body's new teacher education committee that last year's allocations of places further damaged public sector teacher training, which had already experienced a decade of cuts.

"The university sector taken as a whole has had but one year of serious cuts and this quickly brought in the concept of new blood posts," the council says. "The severe contraction of the public sector has led to major staffing problems with staff tending to cluster in the 40-50 age group. Therefore the case for a modest injection of new blood is self evident."

The PCET says it does not deny the value of the Post Graduate Certificate of Education as one valid route to secondary training, it points out that the main iniquity of the 1982 allocations was the distribution of secondary PGCE places almost entirely to universities, mainly because of the Secretary of State for Education's preference for both that route and the university sector.

The council adds: "The secondary BED for all subjects is however a necessary complementary alternative which should be reestablished as soon as possible. The tragedy of the 1982 allocations was the virtual destruction of the secondary BED on logistic rather than professional or educational grounds without proper discussion and consultation."

It points to a further iniquity which has led to the insistence on 600-places units in the public sector, while universities were allowed to "get away" with units of 100 students which would be considered unviable in colleges.

The council also criticizes the Advisory Committee for the Supply and Education of Teachers' proposals to establish an accreditation body for teacher training courses. This meant that while funds were limited, institutions would have to face approval, accreditation and validation in order to establish a single course.

It asks the NAB to give the proposals the highest priority in order to ensure that sensible mechanisms were established. It points out that if course approval became a joint responsibility for the NAB and Department of Education and Science, there was no reason why institutions should not submit a very simple outline of courses direct to the NAB. In most cases these could be approved within a few weeks.

The PCET also calls for a comprehensive national plan for in-service work based on the fullest consultation between all interested parties and with proper funding and support.

Baccalaureate gains favour in British universities

Nearly twice as many International Baccalaureate candidates were offered places at UK universities and colleges this year as in 1980, with a major increase having been achieved on 1982 figures.

This is revealed by a survey on the entry of IB students to universities and colleges which was being discussed this week at an IB seminar on admissions held at London University's Institute of Education, IB is a two-year, pre-university course now offered in some 200 affiliated schools and accepted in some 600 universities in 45 countries.

The survey, conducted by the London IB Office's regional officer shows that 340 students were offered places in 1983 compared to 196 in 1980 and 269 in 1982. The number of offers made rose from 390 in 1980 to 613 in 1983.

Most places were offered by the London School of Economics (57), followed by Sussex, University College, London, Kent, Edinburgh, Warwick, Imperial College London, and Southampton universities.

"The highest number of applications were for courses in economics (72) followed science courses for which numbers have risen substantially over last year, particularly for engineering and medicine. There has however been a drop in applications for languages."

Polytechnics 'nobody's child'

The affairs of the polytechnics are a "black box" about which the public and councilors nominally in charge of the system know next to nothing, David Walker, local government correspondent of the Times and a former THES reporter, claims in a book published yesterday.

In the book, *Municipal Empire*, Mr Walker questions whether, for example, Lancashire county councilors could think of a measure of the effectiveness of Preston Polytechnic or justify its growth and diversification. And he doubts that "the man in the Barking street" would know that NILE stood for the North East London Polytechnic.

"A volume can - and ought to be - written about the financial corner that was cut by polytechnics: their courts of law, their budgets, their staff, their student numbers, their buildings, their growth," he writes. "No district au-

thorities, however, have remained about the same.

Another survey conducted by Mr Roger Moran of St John's International School, Belgium into the IB's acceptability in universities shows that the majority have a positive attitude.

Only eight university colleges and medical schools proved to have a negative or ambiguous attitude towards the IB. The most reactionary were four Oxford Colleges - Christ Church described as negative, Balliol as elitist, St Edmund's Hall as condescending and St John's as ambiguous. Others who gave similar responses were Cambridge University's Clifton and Jesus colleges and two London medical schools - the Royal Free and St Mary's.

On the whole the majority of universities said that the IB compared well with A levels, but a number said definitely that they preferred the latter, particularly for science subjects.

Among these were the Cambridge University colleges of Gonville and Caius, Jesus, King's and St Catherine's and Magdalene, London's Royal Free and St Bart's hospital medical school, Oxford University where the majority prefers A levels and Newcastle, Sheffield and Southampton universities.

"The highest number of applications were for courses in economics (72) followed science courses for which numbers have risen substantially over last year, particularly for engineering and medicine. There has however been a drop in applications for languages."

polytechnics apparently poked their noses in then to ask about "grade creep" - the inexorable movement of staff up salary scales - and the huge expansion of salaries in the mid-1970s.

The polytechnics had all the time of their designation, and still have powerful friends at the Department of Education and Science, Mr Walker says. Some permanent officials simply wanted an alternative to the universities and expensive, while others had a "rather naive vision of an institution marrying scientific and artistic disciplines in an 'open' environment."

He adds that the result was that polytechnics were "nobody's child" and their intermediate status meant that no one was particularly concerned about how they spent public money. *Municipal Empire* by David Walker, £8.95, published by Martinus Delli Smith.

Oxford reluctant to raise funds

Oxford University has shown little enthusiasm for the views of Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, on how future university funding might be increasingly "privatized".

Dr John Smeaton, vice-chancellor, told a meeting of the University's central funding controls and his letter of planning sent to the University Grants Committee are to be studied by a new committee on appeals and income generation.

But a threat of cuttings on the subject around to members of Oxford University's general board have been greeted with scepticism. There are doubts about the practice of undermining state support of universities.

The appeals and income generation committee, headed by Mr Christopher Ball, warden of Keble College, aims to fund-raising from outside sources, which it believes is 100 per cent of very high priority.

Mr Ball said the committee was aimed to study the existing range of income-generating activities and new needs for funds. It will be working on outside sources of income, which are being sought by the university.

Willows saved by grant

Bristol University's unique collection of willow trees has been saved from axe following an EEC grant to aid preservation.

But the 450 species of willow now being moved from the Long Ashton research station to new sites at Bangor faculty of agriculture in Wales and Liverpool Botanic Garden.

The £10,000 grant from the EEC Market is part of a programme to help the university to preserve its collection of willow trees.

Long Ashton's share of the grant after Mr K. P. Scott, who has been enlarged the collection of willow trees to Brussels to plant for preservation.

It had been feared that the collection of trees would fall victim to the cuts in Agricultural Research Council support to the university implemented last year.

Mr Scott asked for grants to maintain the collection at Long Ashton and agreed to the lower figure when the grant and Liverpool offered to preserve the trees. The transfer will be spread over two and a half years.

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I SEE PRINCE EDWARD'S UP ALREADY

Discrimination victim loses second claim against Dundee

Mrs Elizabeth Dick, who last year won £11,000 compensation from Dundee University for dismissal and sex discrimination, has had a second claim of discrimination dismissed by an industrial tribunal.

Mrs Dick claimed that because of the previous case, she was victimized by the university when she applied for a part-time technician post in a research project also involving her husband, Professor D. T. Dick of the anatomy department.

The tribunal heard that the university court had taken the "unusual and probably unique" step of setting up the selection committee for the post, which did not shortlist Mrs Dick for interview.

However, the tribunal found the procedure was not to be adopted by selecting a neutral committee.

The committee members, says the tribunal's report, were under "considerable pressure" from Professor and Mrs Dick, who were determined that she should be appointed, and a strong body of opinion at influential

levels within the university opposing the appointment.

But the tribunal agreed with Mr William Nimmo-Smith, QC, appealing for the university, that the selection committee members were "decent, honourable men who had been put into a very difficult position in which they had maintained their integrity."

one case eight hours, or 30 per cent, above the time approved by the Council for National Academic Awards.

Although there were other examples of timetables being reduced below that stated, overloading was considered a great problem and one which seemed to be causing some absenteeism among students.

The report listed a number of examples of "imaginative practice" by academic staff and found that most students who took polytechnic or college places as a second choice to university soon got over their disappointment and became enthusiastic about their courses and the support they received from staff.

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News in Brief

Paisley social science review

A regular forum between Government departments, the three local authority associations and the Manpower Services Commission to discuss the future of the social sciences at Paisley College of Technology.

He has refused to reprieve the college's social science degree, whose last intake will be this year, although Paisley's board of governors urged him to suspend any decision until the review had been completed.

Mr Stewart is expected to write to the governors next week outlining the procedures for the review, which will decide the future of the college's course in applied social studies and "fundamentally reassess" the place of social sciences in the college.

Breaking records

The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology has increased its research income by 40 per cent on last year, which was itself a record. New grants amounted to £6.3m in the year ending in July.

New look

Strathclyde University has produced a cassette to help disabled applicants. It was made at the suggestion of Outreach, a self-help group of blind and partially-sighted students in the west of Scotland and it advises on arranging a preliminary interview before entry, and special allowances for disabled students, as well as help with study methods, careers advice and social and welfare facilities.

Fresh advice

Seven new members have been appointed to serve on the Government's Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers. They are Mrs Audrey Curtis, senior lecturer in child development at the University of Warwick; Mr John Hargrave, professor of mathematics, University of Warwick; Mrs Mary Hargrave, principal lecturer, Edge Hill College of Higher Education; Mr Michael Power, Catholic Education Council; Mr Ronald Williams, chief adviser, Gwynedd County Council; Mr Vaughan Williams, assistant director, Gwent County Council; Mr Michael Piper, headmaster, City of Portsmouth School for Boys.

In formation

A formation committee has been set up to establish the British Accreditation Council for Independent Further and Higher Education (BACIFHE) to validate and set the standards of private colleges catering for overseas students. The council will be a limited company with charitable status, and will be responsible for inspecting institutions, or supervising inspection by other approved bodies.

Head hunting

Open University researchers have submitted 30 recommendations to the Department of Education and Science on how to improve the current practice in selecting secondary head teachers after conducting a three year project in this field.

Poly first

Mr Bob Porter, senior careers adviser at Leicester Polytechnic, has been elected chairman of the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, the first from a polytechnic to hold the post. He was previously head of the latter London Education Authority careers centre.

Youthful promise

St David's, Lampeter, has established the Lampeter Awards to encourage the most promising pupils in Wales. The competition is open to all secondary schools in Wales and aims to "foster a competitive spirit in academic subjects, to maintain and promote excellence, and to foster relationships within the Welsh educational world".

YTS forum set up in bid to avoid conflict

by Patricia Santinelli

A regular forum between Government departments, the three local authority associations and the Manpower Services Commission to discuss the future of the social sciences at Paisley College of Technology.

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MSC urges 'responsive' adult training strategy

by Felicity Jones

The education of adults moved centre stage in the Manpower Services Commission's thinking with a keynote speech by its director Mr Geoffrey Holland and an initial discussion by the commission last week of its annual strategy.

But the line of the MSC's thinking is unlikely to quash the worries of those who see the strategy as being too vocation-oriented and linked to the state of the economy, to the neglect of general education.

Mr Holland said in the Tawney Memorial Lecture at Mallock, Derbyshire that the country needed to build a new system based on the assumption that skills and knowledge can create

jobs. Such a system should offer vocational education which meets specific needs aimed at competence and assisting occupational and geographic mobility.

Such a system of adult training should be adaptable and responsive to attract employers and employees to take up the provision and should overcome the present provision of courses in "watertight compartments".

The same link to industrial and commercial enterprise and the role in securing the economy's health was outlined in a paper to a meeting of the commission. The priority of any strategy within such a remit was to secure and sustain the quantity and quality of necessary skills as needs

changed and to enable individuals to undertake the continuing education which would give them confidence and skills to meet technological change.

The list of specific objectives, however, ignored one of the main themes of the responses made by educational bodies to the MSC's consultation exercise: that a comprehensive strategy should not focus simply on narrowly defined economic objectives and training but should equip people with general competence and capacity for personal development.

However the commission has taken note of the fact that the MSC is not the only "pebble on the beach in such a system" and its role is as a catalyst. The MSC's proposals will be put to the Government at the end of October.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, seems baffled by the sight of a sea-bed sampling device in Heriot-Watt University's Institute of Offshore Engineering.

Mr Younger was attending an open day to mark the institute's tenth anniversary, at which its director, Dr Cliff Johnson, announced the launch of a new company, Environment and Research Technology which will develop the institute's contracting and consultancy services.

Last year, the institute's turnover was more than £750,000, most of which came from oil companies.

Socialists call for abolition of the UGC

The University Grants Committee should be abolished and replaced by a new body to oversee higher education, the Socialists call. The new body would be responsible for the Department of Education and Science in response to a consultation exercise on the future of the UGC.

The SEA, which was largely responsible for initiating the Labour Party's post-18 education policy, argues that a University Council would coordinate a general overview of national needs and academic responsibility and would act in an advisory capacity to the Government in relation to the funding and development of the university sector.

A top tier would act as a public committee composed of representatives from the universities, the Higher Education Association and a group of education authorities and a group of development council for adult and continuing education.

The second tier would be an academic committee which would command the distribution of higher academic funds.

Local development councils, advocated by the Russell Group, should be established to plan and coordinate all post-18 education and training which meets local needs, with some funding responsibilities being transferred to a national body for continuing education.

A national development council to adult and continuing education would have the same status as the NAB and the proposed universities council, and should share an independent secretariat with the other two bodies with the possibility of an eventual merger between the three bodies.

The top tier of the universities council should provide a link between the universities and the Government and would also be responsible for ensuring public accountability to the SEA. The SEA will recommend to the new national executive committee of the Labour Party that members of the sub-committees should be elected by a series of proposed reforms including a partial of party headquarters which prevented them from holding the Knook for one educational day during the election.

Extra work called to account

by David Jobbins

Consultancy work carried out by polytechnic lecturers is under scrutiny by local government auditors determined to ensure that public money is not being wasted.

Further education college and polytechnic budgets are one of six areas the district audit service has been specifically asked to examine.

They will be using guidelines drawn up by the Audit Inspectorate before its transformation into the Audit Commission and published this month.

As disclosed in *The Times* earlier this year the inspectorate commissioned accountants Price Waterhouse to report on the accounting systems of a sample of six polytechnics in England and Wales. The "value for money" concept created a furor when applied to colleges in an earlier report by the inspectorate's staff.

The overriding wish of the Audit Commission is that value for money should be pursued in all six areas specified - including the polytechnics. About half the auditors' time will be spent on the designated areas and reports are expected on performance during the 1983/84 financial year in autumn 1984.

Increase in graduates on the beat

by Paul Flather

Graduates are flocking to join the police force, reflecting the high pay now on offer, better public relations and according to the Home Office "a new sense of realism" about policing.

Numbers applying for the police graduate entry scheme which promises "accelerated promotion" have soared from 319 in 1978 to 1,566 this year. The entry is kept to 20 to 30 a year, depending on standards.

The Home Office is very keen to attract graduates who it sees as providing the high levels of leadership required within the force. Currently the 44 Chief Constables in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland are graduates.

A glossy brochure produced for the new "milk round" of graduate recruitment describes the "great personal and intellectual challenge" now offered by a police career. "Even when you are acting under orders, your own judgment and discretion will be the key factors in your ability to succeed," it says.

A graduate joining the force at the age of 22 would earn £8,010, which in London after allowances for rent and special weighting could rise to £12,000.

Superintendent Michael Gray, the graduate liaison officer, said interest from graduates was now very high. "A certain amount of realism has crept into campuses. Students know jobs are not easy to come by, and the police can offer a great deal."

He also put the interest down to better pay and conditions, and hard work down by the police in university and polytechnics. Officers plan to visit some 90 institutions over the next four months.

The special graduate entry scheme introduced in 1968 has proved very popular. But overall graduate entry has also been increasing, rising from 396 to 621 last year. Interest from Oxfordshire candidates has also been significant, accounting for seven of the 20 entry scheme places this year.

The police plan "familiarization courses" for 400 undergraduates at 17 centres around the country between January 3 and 6 next year.

Police Graduate Entry Scheme

	Applications	Accepted
1978	319	21
1979	570	28
1980	770	22
1981	1,084	34
1982	1,388	27
1983	1,566	20

Total graduate entry

1980	396
1981	498
1982	621

Figures apply England, Wales, Northern Ireland. Source: Home Office.



James Cennell of Glasgow School of Art's product/furniture design department with his clock mounted on a rolled steel joist.

A glimpse of the blood of others

For the first time since art schools were founded last century, the work of students and ex-students will be shown in one location in the "Young Blood" exhibition and conference at the Barbican Centre, London in November.

The ambitious programme aims to offer a glimpse of the way our streets, homes, clothes and ceremonial will appear in the next decade and will feature more than 2,500 examples of student work from 60 colleges and polytechnics.

The "Young Blood" exhibition will coincide with three conferences on art and design education, and industry planning by a company specifically set up to organize the event by Professor Bruce Archer, professor of design research and design construction at the Royal College of Art, Mr Leonard Stoppani, principal of West Surrey College of Art and Design, and Mr Ken Baynes, head of the design education unit at the RCA, with the backing of Government departments and industrial companies.

He was aware that some anti-vivisectionists would not be satisfied unless all animal experiments were banned. But the Government wanted to convince the "moderates" that experimental animals would receive the highest possible level of protection.

MSC chairman's ruling angers Scottish boards

by Olga Wojtas

There is considerable anger in Scotland at the overruling of a local decision on the Youth Training Scheme by the chairman of the Manpower Services Commission.

The MSC's area manpower board for Fife and Central regions did not approve a training application for 200 youngsters from Pitman Training Services, who have been accepted by several area boards.

The Central and Fife area boards decided to defer approval for a year, but in a unique move, MSC chairman Mr David Young has overturned the decision "with the greatest reluctance" and ordered the scheme to go ahead.

In a letter to the board, he writes that Pitman's proposals "satisfy the criteria of the scheme and that the reasons for the board rejecting them are invalid". But Councillor Henry McCleish, a member of the area board and leader of Fife Regional Council's Labour administration, claims there have been "total distortion" of the board's deliberations.

"Both MSC Scotland and David Young allege we rejected the scheme because we were opposed to private training agencies and because off-the-job training was not being provided through further education colleges. Manifestly, that is untrue, since we have approved many schemes which have their own in-house training."

Mr McCleish said the board deferred its decision on Pitman since it had no proven record in the regions concerned, and there were doubts about the quality of its training.

Deferring the decision would give local firms an opportunity to run schemes, and if there were difficulties, the decision could be reappraised, he said.

Mr McCleish stressed that the

board's decision had been unanimous, supported by the CBI, the voluntary sector and educational interests, and could not be seen as "a conspiracy by left-wing councillors and trade unionists".

He added: "We now have a fairly remarkable situation that MSC officials with the approval of Mr Young have looted upon Central and Fife regions a scheme which is not supported by any member of the manpower board, or by either of the regional councils."

The area board's chairman is seeking an urgent meeting with Mr Young, and it is intended to discuss the issue with the local careers service, teaching associations and the Scottish Trades Unions Congress.

Mr John Pollock, general secretary of the Educational Institute of Scotland and a member of the MSC's Scottish committee, said it was very worrying that Mr Young saw himself as being able to impose his views on a Scottish area board, and that there seemed virtually no place for the MSC Scottish committee.

The matter would be raised at the Scottish committee's meeting later next month, when a full explanation would be sought.

The area board had shown quite legitimate concern over whether an outside agency was able to operate suitable courses when good local facilities were underused, said Mr Pollock.

"This could be seen as a small local difficulty, but it indicates the very great divide which exists between the Conservative philosophy of the MSC's purpose and that of the rest of us; many of us are prepared to work with the MSC only on the understanding that we see a broader educational purpose than simply masking unemployment figures."

Animal bill being drafted

New legislation on animal experiments is still a year or more away, but the government is determined to push it through.

Mr David Mellor, under secretary of state at the Home Office told the British Veterinary Association, congress in Lancaster last week that a Bill is now being drafted for next autumn. It will take account of comments received since now proposals to regulate use of animals in research were outlined in White Paper last May.

Mr Mellor said three main criticisms of the White Paper had come from the commercial and scientific community - of the project licensing system which is at the heart of the proposed new system, of the proposed statutory advisory committee and of the introduction of fees for licences.

Under new arrangements, researchers will have to apply for project licences as well as being licensed as individuals. These project licences will only be issued if another senior researcher certifies that the proposed experiments are likely to succeed and there is no alternative method which does not use animals.

Mr Mellor said that the critics maintained that this and other measures would inhibit research. This was possible. The new controls were intended to prohibit some procedures which were now permitted. "The use of animals for experiments is a privilege, not a right," he said.

He was aware that some anti-vivisectionists would not be satisfied unless all animal experiments were banned. But the Government wanted to convince the "moderates" that experimental animals would receive the highest possible level of protection.

Library data show jobless

Twice as many graduates than post-graduates in librarianship failed to find employment according to figures collected on 1982 leavers from the 17 British Library schools.

The figures which were collected by the Library Association's manpower planning sub-committee are assessed in the latest edition of the association's journal by Mr Patrick Conway, a member of the sub-committee.

According to him the data shows that 16 per cent of first degree holders failed to obtain any type of work compared to 8 per cent of postgraduates. But this is set in the context of seven out of 10 of all library school leavers obtaining some kind of employment, a slight percentage increase on 1981.

Out of the 67 per cent of graduates who obtained work, some 9 per cent did so in non-library occupations, nearly three times the comparable figure for postgraduates.

But Mr Conway points out that two sets of statistics will require further investigation and action. One is the number - although small - of both graduates and postgraduates who obtained work in non-library information agencies.

"Should this trend continue, and there is no reason to believe that it will not, then the hospitality of the Register of Chartered Librarians, the implications for approved training programmes and the position of the Librarian, will all need to be examined, as this affects manpower issues," he writes.

The second is the number of ex-students who obtained employment in library/information work but at sub-professional level.

BSC constructs teaching aids for engineers of the future

The British Steel Corporation is spending £150,000 on teaching aids to help ensure that the next generation of engineers is well-versed in steel construction techniques.

The new aids, to include lecturers' notes, slides and videotapes, will be developed by a team under Professor Patrick Dowling, who holds the BSC chair in structural steel design at Imperial College, London.

The new initiative has arisen out of the corporation and the private steel construction industry's belief that steel is the first choice material for large structures. But engineering (teaching) has been slow to respond to the BSC scheme from its inception in the 70s.

He said there had been an overwhelming enthusiastic response to the BSC scheme from students in the 77 departments of civil engineering design in the UK.

In the majority of universities and polytechnics is inadequate," said Professor Dowling. He emphasized that the new teaching aids would be produced in collaboration with teachers in other institutions and with industry.

He said there had been an overwhelming enthusiastic response to the BSC scheme from students in the 77 departments of civil engineering design in the UK.

The organizers hope the BSC grant will cover a set of slides and tapes for each department, for lecturers to use as they wish. The aids should be ready by next autumn.

A second phase of the project, in collaboration with the Construction Steel Research and Development Organisation, will concentrate on courses for engineers who have already qualified.

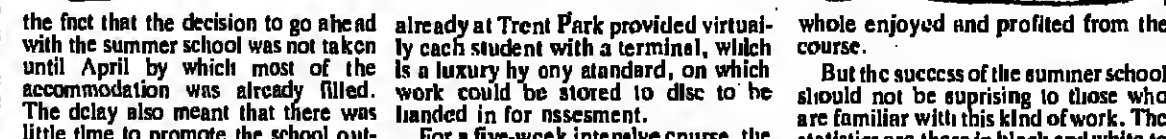
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course approvals next year, will allow detailed decisions on individual courses to be made at a local level, leaving NAB only the option of intervention.

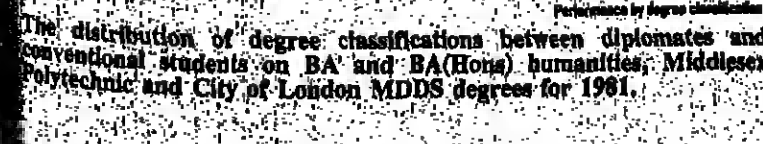
had cleared the PNL sociology department of very similar accusations. Moreover, the council had not only confirmed to validate the sociology

waiting for Sir Keith, but leaving undefended the integrity of PNL department, its academic conditions and the council itself, the CN has said nothing publicly at all.

The distribution of degree classifications between diplomates and conventional students on BA and BA(Hons) humanities, Middlesex Polytechnic and City of London MDDS degrees for 1961.



10 BNC micros were transported from elsewhere within the polytechnic. These added to the existing four micros

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1. *What is the purpose of this study?*

Movement that fiddled while Rome burned

Gerard Connolly offers a view of the significance of the Oxford movement

With the retirement of the legendary Dino Zoff, the Italian goalkeeper, this year, it may be worthwhile reminding readers that 1983 is also a year to recall a fellow countryman of his who can lay similar claim to having made the sse of the century. Not this century, however, but the last. Nor is his name, Dominic Barberi, likely to evoke too many sporting memories. He was a Catholic priest and his catch that set the tongues of English commentators wagging, providing demonstrably the high spot of a movement which got off the ground 150 years ago was the soul of John Henry Newman, perhaps the most celebrated convert from Anglicanism to Rome.

To an age altogether uncomfortable with purely religious agonizing, it is not always easy to appreciate the strength of opinion which surrounded the "going over" of such men as Newman and other educated notables, products of what was dubbed the Oxford Movement and as a nod towards those of their *alma mater* who pursued a high vision of churchmanship.

Yet such was the consternation and euphoria among Protestants and Catholics respectively in England at the time, there was even talk of the collapse of the established church fuelling wild expectations of an imminent restoration of the country to Roman Catholicism.

A brief glance around, however, would seem to confirm neither prophecy to have been fulfilled. Newman's defection following that of others, including HRH the Princess of Wales's ancestor George Spencer, for all the psychological edge it gave to Catholics at large in an unfriendly Protestant society, was never followed by more than a modest number of imitators. (In so far as one can be sure about these things Catholics sources look to have frequently exaggerated the numerical impact of the movement.)

Moreover the spectre raised in squib shops and common rooms alike of a once industrious England turned into something resembling a run down Irish holiday camp soon receded, giving way to other public preoccupations. Less than 15 years separated Newman's act of conversion, on his knees incidentally, to Rome, from a publication by Charles Darwin which was to give the University of Oxford a great deal more food for thought than the former's notorious *Tract XC*.

Undoubtedly Catholics acquired in Newman the services of a formidable intellect at a time when their own episcopate looks to have been a bit short on cerebral vigour. But one cannot help but feel that for all the very real individual and family traumas inherent in crossing from Canterbury to Rome, from a publication by Charles Darwin which was to give the University of Oxford a great deal more food for thought than the former's notorious *Tract XC*.

Even those with no interest in the fortunes of Catholicism who might be thought to have more reason than most to feel the movement, have begun to show signs of impatience with the personality cult surrounding Newman, as with Thomas More, the saint of historiography once thought requisite to sustain his reputation mercifully appears on the wane.

The image of both men has of late lost its lustrous polish. A recent and widely admired study of post-Reformation Catholicism in England, *John Bossy's English Catholic Community*, despite its title, found it necessary to deal with either of them for Catholics - and one might add Protestants also - this would have been an unpalatable task of late majesty but a couple of decades ago. Clearly it is possible to detect motions of recession.

Without dwelling on the circumstances, Catholics, possibly more than any other Christian community in England, have clung to a version of English history distinctively their own. Nor will it come as any surprise to suspect to anyone to learn that at its crux this amounted to a list of heroes and villains.

Among the latter, Henry VIII and Oliver Cromwell figured prominently, while on the other side the story was one of individual steadfastness and martyrdom. After prolonged persecution by the English state, the "true faith" began a period of inevitable decline, reaching a point of near extinction sometime in the late 16th century.

The Oxford Movement is now 150 years old. According to its leading figure, John Henry Newman, the great "Catholic revival" within the Anglican Church grew out of John Keble's sermon "National Apostasy", delivered at St Mary's Oxford, in July 1833. The sermon coincided with Newman's return from Rome and with the abolition of ten Irish bishops, an act that provoked deep doubts about the Church's position when attacked by Government. In a series of *Tracts for the Times*, Newman set out the principles he shared with Keble, Harrell Froude and Edward

Pusey: the integrity of the Prayer Book, the divine mission of the Church as an extension of the Incarnation, and the principle of Apostolic Succession. The storm which accompanied the *Tractarian Movement*, another of its aliases, reached a climax in 1841 with *Tract 90*, which argued that the Thirty-Nine Articles, the basis of Protestant Anglicanism, did not, in fact, disavow or refute Catholicism. Increasingly alienated from the majority within the Church of England, Newman eventually followed the logic of his views and seceded to the Church of Rome.



of history as a lapse into bad taste, at best passé; and nowhere more so than when called upon to pray for those once known as their "poor separated brethren". Preserving identity with a measure of generosity might equally summarize the present *status quo*.

Meanwhile a process of Catholic historical and consequently psychoanalytical reassessment continues. Tudor statecraft, for example, no longer commands attention as an anti-Catholic operation, *par sang*; and even Oliver Cromwell has been spared a number of his stick-on waris. Of potentially greater interest has been the growing consensus, celebrated in the 1981 centenary of the Georgian Catholic bishop Richard Challoner's death, that contrary to their self-projected image as so unsociable a group, Catholic men and women of the eighteenth century *relied* lives as English subjects prior to the onset of Irish immigration.

Far from being stuck up chimney shafts awaiting the Irishman Daniel O'Connell and liberation, the English Catholics of the age of industrialization found freedom enough to play a positive role in that great transformation of English society, even to the point of prospering in union with it. More than one Catholic fortune was made with boom and forge by rural migrants in such places as Lancashire or Stafford.

All things considered, it appears fair to say that no aspect of previous historical traditionalism save the fact of Irish stimulated growth and the triumphal appropriateness of the Oxford men has escaped some element of reassessment. Regrettably for those who find virtue in the persistence of school-room orthodoxy, these also may be about to undergo reevaluation.

It is now almost 20 years since the Irish American scholar, Emilio Larini, gave a jolt to the cosy presumption going on hubris that Irish and Catholicism were timeless, unchanging axioms in an otherwise shifting world. He was able to argue convincingly that it is reasonable to assume large sections of the Irish population to have acquired their reflex for Catholic practice in a relatively recent time - especially on the west coast - around the second half of the 18th century. The explanation for

this situation is, to deploy the diplomat's euphemism, "at a delicate state of accord" among members of his profession.

However, if one may take counter-reformation to involve also a conscious measure of Catholic internal reform like that of its Protestant namesake, replacing a religious life bound up with public acts of fasting and fasting with a piety more directed towards individual decorum and discipline, notably in external acts of ritual, it may also be accepted that such reform made an unequal impact in Ireland prior to the great famine of 1846-49 reducing the population, a plausible reasoning emerges.

This does not mean, of course, that Irish men and women were by inclination indifferent to their religious behaviour. Quite the opposite I would say. Nonetheless what it does imply is that for a significant number of them, the outcome of being a Catholic, say on the least of Corpus Christi, had more to do with what would pass for a knee-up at Donnybrook Fair than devout attendance at Mass in the parish church.

Reading between the lines of Larini's analysis it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that what modern conformism would rate "non-practising" Irish Catholics made up a huge percentage of those emigrants from Ireland arriving before the middle of the last century. An impression confirmed by the alarmed reaction of English priests (missionaries) oo first countering them. Since during this period well in excess of half a million such Irish found their way onto the British mainland from Limerick to London, these are the substance of fabled nineteenth century Catholic expansion.

But question: if considerable numbers of disembarking Irish men and women brought with them to England little or no notion of regular Catholic obligations "is the Council of Trent directed" from whom did so many of them acquire their "received" instincts for habitual observance? The answer, as it seems to have unfolded at the most dramatic (and provocative), from the English, or specifically the English missionaries.

There is more. Even assuming an over-simplification of what was a complex process, there is now no reason to doubt that these same Irish came, in the eleventh hour saviours of a bound English Catholicism but only contrary interrupted, as mentioned something of a revival, one of the strongest features of which today have been an unspectacular yet solid attachment to disciplined standards of modern Catholic practice. In fact the very sacraments to Sunday Mass and sections of the Irish poor, who were dubbed "stragglers" by the English missionaries. The net result of early immigration was to impart a new vigour to a reviving English Catholicism on an unprecedented scale, rather than rescue it bringing it back to a whisker of collapse.

What had this to do with Newman and his associates? Verily one suspects. And yet is it precisely the point. The critical point confronting Catholics in England during the first half of last century beyond was, put baldly, how to shoestring budget to stop the rot of Irish non-practising that was menacing the future of Catholicism in England, instead of incessant immigration to advantage.

Yet does not this tend to lay the question as to why it is that conversion of those splendid Old-chaps has come to be deemed a major event, centre stage in the re-establishment of a Roman Catholic Church in England? For sure any miraculous occurrence here has to do with the enormous success of the English pioneers in converting Irish men and women against all the odds.

Possibly proof that God helps two help themselves, since the creation of a popular Roman Catholic Church in England owes a handsome debt to the human dedication and native talents of those mostly English missionaries - Glavin, Hook, Worward, Blundell etc - an assembly of whom gave their lives to the enterprise, struck down by disease and exhaustion. Few of them far as I am aware would lay claim to much as a prototype pair of Oxford bags. Under such circumstances, dwelling while Rome burned, or at least threatened to waste away, might prove a more fitting future epitaph for a movement taking place alongside the public gaze.

Ironically for a fraternity that took its name, the University of Oxford, it has least proved something of an elephant's graveyard, contributing little or nothing of the advancement of a decent domestic Catholic historical scholarship.

It is manifestly the appeal of Newman et al looks to rest upon something of a good deal more personally irrational. I would be surprised, therefore, if the author of "Lead Light" did not continue to capture in wide audience of his fellow Catholics and indeed his fellow human beings irrespective of changing modes of appreciation.

In a Christian world showing signs of a maybe none too healthy spiritual obsession for the latest bulletin of the religious institute for social progress, an apparent spiritual revival - Newman's interior life had a peculiar loveliness about it - may come as a breath of fresh air.

For my part, growing up in the climate of the activist socialist movement, I have always found John Newman's fondness for burdensome abstraction a touch pathological. Though one must admit to having my own private back whenever I hear his soul call me. Take me away, and in the end, deep.

There let me be... and so on. There will I sing and so on. Which he or can cease to think and pine, and languish in a pose.

Of its Sole Peace. And if such words fail to impress, self-evidently sublime, perhaps the only way to be wanting the music of Edward Elgar for whom Newman was acting as a librettist. Conclude there is another tangled soul.

The author is preparing a new history of nineteenth century Catholicism in England.

In his evidence on behalf of the Advisory Board for the Research Councils to Lord Rothschild's inquiry into the Social Science Research Council, the then chairman of the ABCRC defined the "prime function" of a research council as follows: to identify the best research which may be done in its field, defined by its charter; to identify the best way of getting it done; then to provide the means by which it may be done.

In his subsequent letter of October 14 1982 to me, Sir Keith Joseph wrote: "I think it right to say once again that I clearly understand and respect the constitutional relationship between the Science and Technology Act 1965. I fully accept that within the normal requirements of accountability it is for the council to determine its priorities - in the light of all the representations made to it including those of central government - and (short of a direction) to decide how to spend its money accordingly. (As regards the level of funding itself), it is my intention that when the volume of contraction to a smaller base has been realised the council could count on a period of real stability at that lower level at least."

Taken together, these quotations define the successful outcome of my chairmanship; they also emphasize the council's duties to exercise its independence vigorously and responsibly. One aspect of our responsibilities that has recently again attracted notice is the issue of "fundamental" versus "practical" research. My own personal view is that I hope to obtain the occasional fundamental insight in the course of a lifetime of painstaking effort to understand practical issues.

Those who cannot accept that approach must accept another: all the research councils, without exception, support both highly applied and very fundamental work. When they are lucky, they get extra "commissioned" funds to cover some of the applied work. Sometimes bread has to be thrown on the water first.

The risk of spending in any case is for councils to decide. Sometimes in other fields, brilliant young chemists or biologists find this fact difficult to swallow. Social scientists, by the nature of their disciplines, should understand it more readily and normally do so, except for the odd silly remark in the silly season.

But the duty, emphasised by the ABCRC quotation, to choose among fields of study, modalities, and persons, is a tough one. The dilemma "support the best research, support the best person, support the vigorous curiosity of the scientific community" is part of the faith of all heads of research councils.

As chairman of what we must soon learn to call the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council), I have regarded it as my duty to nurture above all the capability of scholars and scientists in the universities, polytechnics and independent institutes to do first rate empirical research. And that in turn requires the development of top class methodology, and top class analysis.

That is, however, only a starting point. What has preoccupied me during my 37 months of straightening the line, retreating to prepared positions, holding off attacks (we have lost a lot of acreage but have not withdrawn totally from any significant piece of territory) was of course firstly survival: "What did you do in the French Revolution, grandpapa?" Mon petit, j'ai fait que l'organisme survive!

But I have also striven to put the complex machine I inherited, each part of which had been intelligently constructed and operated, into a shape where the strategic decisions necessary to a research council could be made. Take me away, and in the end, deep.

There let me be... and so on. There will I sing and so on. Which he or can cease to think and pine, and languish in a pose. Of its Sole Peace. And if such words fail to impress, self-evidently sublime, perhaps the only way to be wanting the music of Edward Elgar for whom Newman was acting as a librettist. Conclude there is another tangled soul.

The author is preparing a new history of nineteenth century Catholicism in England.

Farewell SSRC; hail ESRC

Michael Posner looks back at his period as chairman of the Social Science Research Council



Michael Posner: 'I have regarded it as my duty to nurture above all the capability of scholars and scientists to do first rate empirical research.'

therefore be keen. Although that does not mean that our research council is in any way unsympathetic to those vice chancellors who have been achieving radical redirection of efforts within the walls of individual universities to the last two or three years.

There is however a fundamental division of effort, a division of labour and function, between the work supported by university funds and the work supported by research councils. Most work in economic theory, or sociological analysis, or speculation and argument in political science can be done, within universities, with university money; and even some modest empirical research should be financeable through a route as well, perhaps with a modicum of necessary support from private foundations.

For instance, the most distinguished economist of my generation collected material for a recently published empirical study literally on his bicycle, cycling from village to village to inspect local records. As far as I know, he received no research council support for that work, which is of acknowledged excellence.

On the other hand, our research unit in historical demography at Cambridge has used not only the (unpaid) help of hundreds of local historians, but also the computer backlog and full-time staff necessary for the production of their recent equally distinguished population history of England. Our research council exists chiefly to encourage, within its very limited budget, appropriate contributions to empirical knowledge which require the collection and analysis of data beyond the scope of a university department to finance.

Even we cannot finance more than a small fraction of what might be possible. We have to be very selective and we have to ensure that, where necessary, the appropriate entrepreneurial and managerial talents are employed to make the research tick.

Once this truth is recognized, some discussion can be avoided. The sure way must be many different modes of supporting research, each one appropriate to the particular task. Thus the able young professor who recently told me, with the unclouded certainty of scientific knowledge, that

tenured research posts should not be supported, could surely not be supposing that, in all respects the social sciences in the UK are utterly unlike the sciences supported by other UK research councils and utterly unlike social sciences in other countries? The German fashion, by which senior university professors aspire each to have their own little research institute, with temporary or part-time staff, may be right for us to imitate to some respects; but the French system, too without its notable successes, is precisely the opposite - there the tenured *chercheur* is the rule.

We must pick and choose, in a quite catholic manner, from all the methods open to us. The new Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) which we (together with private funders) have helped Richard Portes to create, is designed specifically to activate the skills of existing holders of tenured university posts - an excellent idea.

But while my colleagues and I were arguing this striking innovation through the council, we were also pressing forward with other innovative schemes: for comparative and collaborative work with overseas partners; for increasing the tenured strength of the Science Policy Research Unit in Sussex; for rearranging the system for the support of criminological research in the UK, all of them using modes of support quite different from the CEPR principle. And the traditional individual research grants still take a larger proportion of our total spending than they do for most of our sister councils.

While all this development on the research side has been conjuring, and while we have been conducting our discussions with Lord Rothschild and the Secretary of State, our financial position and the harsh choices that they have imposed on us have led to a reduction of more than a half for our support for postgraduate training. And we have just announced the outline of the way by which we will over the next four years provide postgraduate support - a balance between a "student choice" scheme, and the more traditional research council "quota award".

Over this historic compromise much ink has been spilt, and it is right to attribute to the Secretary of State the credit or blame for bringing the issue to a head at this time. But during the whole of my five years, I have been

bombarded with argument pro and con on this matter from the universities, and my heartfelt advice to you all is to allow this compromise to run for a few years - both the universities and our own committees need that much respite.

Respite in a more general sense is also deserved by the SSRC staff, sharply reduced in numbers in tune with the fall in the council's overall budget, and buffeted by change in a way at least as intense as suffered by any other part of the British university and research world over the last years. For my closest colleagues, the secretaries and deputy secretaries of the council, I have been an unruly pupil and a sometimes headstrong pugnacious. No one will be surprised when I speak of the long hours and late night telephone calls that have linked us.

But I would also speak up for the rest of the council's staff, holding the ship together in stormy days, drafting and redrafting papers which seldom received the attention they were due because of the more immediate pressure of political events; the task of holding the confidence of the academic community in times of uncertainty has

been severe. I am sure they will find from Douglas Hague the leadership and understanding support which is their due.

What is peculiar about our experience is that it was the social scientists themselves who were under attack and their research council merely their most vulnerable flank. Of course the attack was political, but not exclusively in a party sense: while many practical people from industry, the Civil Service, and from the world of research in the natural sciences have shown a shrewd and consistent understanding both of the contribution that can be expected from the social sciences and of its limitations, the press and the political world have been more volatile.

Twenty years ago there was great enthusiasm, and perhaps the product was rather oversold in consequence; by the end of the 1970s, cynicism and disillusion with our work was the general rule. Our job now is to restore some balance to the argument by producing a steady stream of solid, sensible analysis, well-founded on fact, bravely controversial when necessary, modest and sober when that will do the job.

The success and promise of work in our field should not be underestimated. Victor Rothschild made a splendid case for social anthropology, against the philistines of oil parties; all our work can be similarly defended. The very language used by all concerned citizens - alienation, culture, cultural identity, multiplier process, computer analogues for mental processes - emphasizes the pervasive nature of our disciplines.

Sometimes it is wise and timely to press our usefulness, at other times the rigour of our analysis, at others the care of our scholarship. All are required, and the establishment need to be reminded of them all.

The ESRC will not be able to turn the tide on its own. The welcome new association of learned societies in the social sciences will I am sure make a contribution, but of course it is largely the social scientists themselves who must pull themselves up in public esteem by their own boot straps.

We, however, know that we still have to turn down three quarters of the research applications that come to us. In blunt language, that means that in any representative audience of empirically minded social scientists, I am accustomed to meet 25 satisfied clients and 75 disappointed ones. And there will be several hundreds more lurking in the background, who are either too grand, or too preoccupied with their teaching, or who make their excellent contribution at their typewriter in their own garret - the very best of luck to that last group, not just because that is what I'll be doing myself for the next year!

But the ESRC, and its chairman, will always have a key role to play. I am sure they will do splendidly, and they deserve the support of all of us.

The author retires today as chairman of the Social Science Research Council.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) YEAR

This year, the Government has encouraged everyone to know about and exploit IT. What about IT in British higher education? Are academics aware of IT and do they exploit it? What impact has it had, in particular, on teaching approaches?

In June this year the THES published an 8-page special feature which tried to answer some of these questions. Contributors include David Hawkrige, Professor of Applied Educational Sciences and Director of the Institute of Educational Technology at the Open University, Margaret Boden, Professor of Philosophy and Psychology at the University of Sussex and A. N. Barrett, a Mathematical Scientist at the Computing Laboratory at the National Institute for Medical Research.

Reprints of this 8-page feature are available, price 80p including postage and packing within the UK, from Frances Goddard, The Times Supplements, Priory House, St John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX. Please make your cheque/postal orders (no cash please) payable to Times Newspapers Limited.

BOOKS

Radical poetry

Vision and Disenchantment: Blake's Songs and Wordsworth's Lyrical Ballads by Heather Glen
Cambridge University Press, £25.00 and £9.95
ISBN 0 521 25084 6 and 27198 3

The purpose of this book is to compare Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Experience* with Wordsworth's *Lyrical Ballads* as radical poetry. Although both poets were clearly innovators in poetic form and social vision, Dr Glen's argument is that Blake was the more profoundly challenging thinker in his own time and remains so still.

This general thesis might not seem particularly original, but what is fresh and valuable is the way in which Dr Glen explores it through very close readings of individual poems. She focuses attention in a new way upon the relationship between the speakers of these poems and their mental worlds, attempting to assess the ways in which they respond to suffering, social injustice, and personal isolation. These she sees as constituting implicit social or political visions which are often tacitly accepted by the reader. Dr Glen insists that we should be aware of their implications, valuing those poems which challenge assumptions and which imagine new ways of seeing and relating to others, and questioning those which ultimately seem to end in isolation and defeat.

These are important criteria to bring to bear on this poetry, but it must be said that the book gets off to a slow start. The early chapters place Blake's *Songs of Innocence* in the context of contemporary children's verse, and Wordsworth's *Lyrical Ballads* alongside protest verse in the radical *Monthly Magazine* and the more conservative *Gentleman's Magazine*. What emerges is, as one might expect, that the poetic language of Blake and Wordsworth challenges expectations and undermines assumptions in ways that more conventional poems of protest do not. The most interesting aspect of this part of the study is the emphasis on Blake's divergence from, rather than the more usually emphasized similarity to, the radical religious and political thinkers of the time: Swedenborg, Boehme, and Paine.

The real thrust of this book however begins with the full chapters on the *Songs of Innocence and Experience*. Here Dr Glen offers what is essentially a new reading of the *Songs of Innocence* and a fresh evaluation of the relationship between those poems and the *Songs of Experience*. She argues powerfully that the *Songs of Innocence* are neither "naïve" nor simply "utopian", nor do they present a "natural" which is inevitably lost with maturity; nor are they simply part of a dialectical contrary with experience. Rather they embody the essence of the Blakean social vision which discovers within real social and personal experience a profound view of the self, not a private isolated ego, but rather something constituted by dynamic engagement with other individuals and social groups — the self born and reborn in imaginative social perceptions.

This provocative interpretation of *Innocence* allows Dr Glen to see in poem like "Infant Joy" an exploration of a genuinely creative relationship between mother and child and in "The Echoing Green" an absolute celebration of play and interchanges involving both adults and children. In this she finds a basic model for imaginative social relationships, which she compares interestingly with modern studies of "successful" parent-child relationships.

Looked at from this point of view she argues that in many ways the *Songs of Experience* are criticisms of those narrow, rationalistic, egocentric limitations of their speakers which cause their social isolation. Her detailed studies of "The Fly" and "A Poison Tree" are particularly interesting in this respect.

Dr Glen's most original and challenging move, however, is to turn this vision of *Innocence* against Wordsworth. She fully recognizes the radical

nature of so much of Wordsworth's early poetry, for example its refusal to assimilate socially in any easy way powerful figures like the "Old Man Travelling" or "Simon Lee". But she points out that in the *Lyrical Ballads* of 1798 there is often a fall into self-absorbed reflection that contrasts sharply with Blake's outward-moving vision. In the "Goslar Lyrics", added in the 1800 edition of the *Lyrical Ballads*, she shows that there is an emphasis on the "sealed subjectivity" of those who experience loss and isolation. In "Grasshopper Poems" such as "The Brothers" and "Michael" she points out that there is a sense that human nature is revealed most profoundly in defeat or rejection, or in a "survival" which exists only in the memories of small communities which are themselves essentially isolated limitations of vision in these celebrated poems.

Cowper's therapy

Cowper's "Task": structure and influence by Martin Priestman
Cambridge University Press, £19.50
ISBN 0 521 23643 6

Once set in motion by Lady Austen's challenge — "Write upon this sofa!" — Cowper might seem to have produced his major poem *The Task* by a process of free association. In fact, his themes and transitions were controlled by the same conflicts and anxieties that made the writing of it so important as self-therapy.

Launched on a confident praise of landscape in Thomson's mode, he found himself drawn to an aspect of nature that could image his own despair — the sea, into which his doomed sailor slips in a one-line prefiguration of "The Castaway" (1784). Likewise, self-assured satire on town life in book two led him on to horrifying visions of sin that belied his show of poise. In book three a Horatian celebration of retirement made him question in increasing depth the value of his own "laborious ease". Thus the main "task" of the poem — to be self-justification — ultimately impossible in Cowper's life, but precariously achieved within the poem, and pursued through changing moods and modes with considerable genius in self-awareness.

Such is Dr Priestman's account of *The Task*: a richer and stranger poem than the charming, relaxed affair we read of in the *Oxford History of English Literature*. His concerns are nearer those of Morris Golden in *The Search of Stability*, though he takes more account of Cowper's wish to make his narrator an exemplary Christian figure — one who "repeatedly subsumes and becomes subsumed in the local and historical 'Cowper'". The oscillations set up by Cowper's urgent but contradictory needs are nowhere more rapid than in the first half of book two where he tries in vain "to unpleasure himself" — to be, between different versions of himself. The triumph of the poem, in depth of insight and integrating power, occurs after this point and is most impressive in book five. In a final chapter Dr Priestman shows by detailed comparison that Wordsworth's *Prelude* owes a larger debt to *The Task*, in form and in content, than has previously been appreciated.

Dr Priestman's reading is on the whole persuasive, and reveals him as a poet of Empsonian finesse: subtle, witty and free of naturalistic assumptions. He reads like the best of critics, well-known and sage: like the best of critics of the church bells at the beginning of book six, and makes us feel what close attention we have paid it before. Even the least successful stretches of *The Task* come to life when we are made to see what "dangers and escapes" (Cowper's phrase) it records and enacts. Dr Priestman is not only good on detail but on the metaphorical value of what is usually taken literally. Cowper's instructions for growing mushrooms, for example, are a mild joke, a comic attempt to make a point, a comic attempt to make a point. In a critical sense, however, Dr Priestman interprets the deliberate metaphor for Cowper's writing of poetry. Natural objects whose significance is sensitively explored include the sea, the river, the most fruitful metaphor for Cowper (the walls) and the ice palace.

Of course there are opportunities for

disagreement. In book one Crazy Kate does not stand on the shore, as she is said to do and as the symbolic scheme requires: she need not even be living near the sea. When Cowper writes that the vice of profusion "Makes men mere vermin, worthy to be trapped" (II.685) we need not, like Dr Priestman, take this for authorial misanthropy: this is how men seem to commercial predators. The historical background sometimes feels a bit shaky, and a few topical references are missed. But these are small faults in relation to Dr Priestman's achievement. His is the best critical book on Cowper that I have seen, firmly focused on the poetry and (another Empsonian trait) serious without being solemn. It is not easy reading, but will be obligatory for all who desire a closer walk with Cowper.

Derek Roper

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Types of Christ

Typologies in England 1650-1820 by Paul J. Korshin
Princeton University Press, £26.10
ISBN 0 691 06485 7

Religious typology (not to be confused with typology meaning classification) is the ancient study of the prefigurative relationship between the Old and New Testaments, or the way in which people or events or things in the Old Testament were believed to typify the life of Christ in the New. This way of interpreting scripture was enormously influential not only for theological but for secular literature, and in recent years literary historians, following the lead of Auerbach's essay "Figure", have devoted much attention to the uses of typology in medieval, Renaissance and later literature. Bar Minder's volume on *Literary Use of Typology*, to which Korshin contributed, is a notable example.

Korshin is the first to attempt a systematic study of typology in the period 1650-1820: his aim in this long, ambitious, learned, and somewhat unwieldy book is "to find the intellectual bases of typology in the literature of the English Enlightenment". He divides typology into four main kinds: conventional (biblical exegesis), applied (for example the Christian interpretation of pagan literature, or the analogy of typology between biblical and secular literature), developed (which has links with the second but which is largely secular in its emphasis), and natural (the habit of finding prefigurative structures in the natural world). His concern is largely with the third kind, abstracted typology — that is, characters, narratives, or episodes in secular literature which deliberately parallel or echo biblical types for non-theological purposes. What Korshin sets out to provide is a history of why and how abstracted typology developed from the middle of the seventeenth century, illustrating it, very vividly from the poetry, fiction, and non-fictional prose of the period.

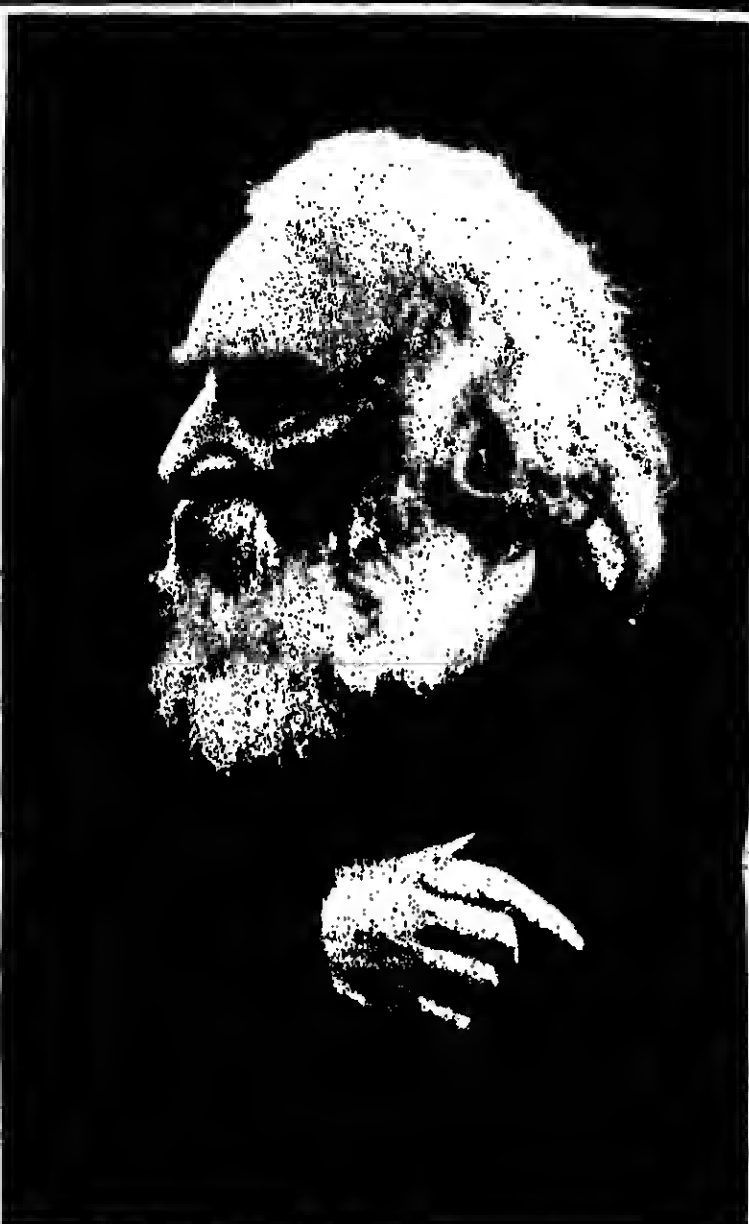
Korshin does not really get into his stride until the middle of the book. The first two chapters, which he sets up as a "survey" of the history of typology, are more simply descriptive. He then turns to the history of the "developed" kind of typology, which he divides into three main types: the "typical" type, the "typical" type, and the "typical" type.

whether its vision represents a kind of disillusion with man and society which we too often unquestioningly respond to as "truth".

In this respect the book is significant in that it does question the privileging of Wordsworth over Blake in the English tradition. It shows convincingly that Blake was, and still is, the more radical thinker, who not only questions old forms of authority but also imagines new forms of freedom. It is not now time that *Jerusalem* stand alongside *The Prelude* in the nation's consciousness?

Frank Stack

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Henry Wedgworth Longfellow, photographed by Julia Margaret Cameron in 1868, from a new study of her work by Margaret Harker published yesterday by Collins at £3.95.

of the non-Christian study of classical myth, is a very knotty one. Easily the best chapters in the book are those on typology and the novel and typology and prophecy". Korshin is right to emphasize the great popularity of the *Kempis's Imitation of Christ* in the period, and its connection with the many postfigurations of Christ who appear in fiction, Sir Charles Grandison being the most elaborately developed example. (Given the importance of Richardson for the subject of this book, it is surprising to find no mention of *Clarissa*, the letter to Lovelace, and its literal meaning, false — *Clarissa's* intention is to deceive. Lovelace who is incapable of understanding his Christian meaning.)

Among Korshin's many interesting comments on the development of the novel, perhaps the most important is his account of the blending of the type of class and the Christian type, who plays an active role in the Christian drama, into the character type, whom the reader can recognize, and whose role he can predict. Towards the end of his chapter on prophecy, Korshin suddenly illuminates his earlier discussion by pointing us to Blake's account of the "typical" type, the "typical" type, and the "typical" type.

Isabel Rivers

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BOOKS

Genetic leash

Fromelhan Fire: reflections on the origin of mind by C. J. Lumsden and E. O. Wilson
Harvard University Press, £14.00
ISBN 0 674 71445 8

In the bad old days we used to debate the relevance of ethology to human behaviour. The discussion tended to degenerate into haggles about whether mankind did or did not possess instincts. We now debate the relevance of sociobiology to human behaviour. High passions still rage and many silly things are said on both sides.

Lumsden and Wilson raised the tone of the debate with their monograph *Genes, Mind and Culture: the evolutionary process* (Harvard University Press, 1981). In this they granted that much that people do is learnt by cultural transmission, but they suggested that the human mind is built in such a way as to be more likely to choose to adopt, some practices than others. In other words the genes may constrain what is learnt. The monograph, however, was written in impenetrable English and contained a good deal of advanced mathematics. *Fromelhan Fire* is a shorter and more popular version.

Lumsden and Wilson's main argument is that, although people are free to make particular cultural choices, their judgment is biased: they will be more likely to adopt practices that promote Darwinian fitness than those that do not. In the process of evolution an unprepared mind or *tabula rasa* would be handicapped compared to a mind that was equipped with clues about the answers to problems of adaptation. A formal proof of this is offered in *Genes, Mind and Culture*.

But does such a bias operate in practice? Although Lumsden and Wilson provide seven examples, all but two are unhelpful. It is not in dispute that certain aspects of movement may be unlearned — for example the elements of facial expression. Nor is it controversial that our sensory apparatus may constrain our perceptions and thus our actions — for example, we apply colour words according to the way our vision categorizes colours and our perception of patterns is determined by the visual system. It is not news that we are born with a sweet tooth; and even in the headiest days of the rows between ethology and social science it was agreed by all that babies disliked strangers (and loud noises).

Two cases are of greater interest. First, people are predisposed to fear some things more than others — for example, hairy spiders more than plants. In clinical patients often report with phobias of heights or open spaces but rarely with phobias of snakes or plugs. We tend then to be frightened not of anything that we know to be dangerous but of those natural dangers which it pays all animals to avoid. In other words, our emotional reactions are biased.

The second intriguing fact is the ease with which both children and adults are persuaded that they should not have sexual intercourse with their relatives. Most people are unaware of the reasons why genetic counsellors would advise against incest; yet they nonetheless avoid it. Like other animals, we seem to find greater sexual attraction to those individuals with whom we have been familiar from an early age. In other words, our sexual attractions are biased. Issues such as these have been the subject of academic debate in psychology and ethology, and several books of collected papers have been published on constraints on learning and on preparedness to learn. It is simply not true, as Lumsden and Wilson claim, that "the zeitgeist of contemporary psychology for the most part favours a belief in blank-slate minds".

Suppose, however, that the critic accepts that people are naturally wary of some things and that, like animals, they are not sexually attracted to those they have known from infancy. Lumsden and Wilson will have to go a long way further before they will persuade the critic that the bias in cultural choice

pervades all the important aspects of our intellectual and social life. They do admit that they have not yet addressed the more complicated patterns of behaviour and the institutions of advanced societies, but promise that their approach will prove to be "the only way to go". But why accept their assurance?

The issue is not whether a complete account of human behaviour will have to mention the genes, culture and their interaction. It is the degree of constraint that is at issue. Few people commit incest, but many of our cultural choices are much less constrained. Lumsden and Wilson acknowledge this, but argue none the less that the genes always hold culture on "an elastic but unbreakable leash". How then do they explain the fact that people willingly use contraceptives and have themselves sterilized, preferring

Igneous geology

Igneous Rocks by Daniel S. Barker
Prentice-Hall, £29.70
ISBN 0 13 450692 8

Ten years ago we all read the classic and weighty text by Turner and Verhooogen. Since then the number of undergraduate textbooks dealing with igneous rocks has increased dramatically, at least three — of which Barker's is the latest — having appeared within the past two years. Like most recent works, however, Barker's book has been written at a more elementary level, it includes less descriptive detail but a more diversified treatment of the wide range of topics associated with igneous geology.

The book's American publisher claims that the book is suitable for undergraduates in geology majors who have had a year of college chemistry, and for beginning graduate students in British universities, however, although it would be suitable for second-year and third-year undergraduate courses, substantial supplementary reading would be required to offset deficiencies in some areas. The author writes in a clear and straightforward style, and by avoiding most of the more complex subject matter has produced a book which is easy to read and intellectually undemanding.

All the conventional material of igneous geology is covered. However, any work attempting to cover the entire subject in little more than 400 pages must spread itself pretty thin in at least some areas and is likely to be of variable quality. Here, the author has not set his sights very high, with the result that his book's main strengths lie in some of the descriptive sections and those which offer practical advice on petrological techniques. For example, in the excellent passages on textures, pyroclastic rocks, and many other aspects of volcanology, the author goes to some trouble to explain how to describe rocks, how to perform modal analyses and what a chemical analysis means — topics very often omitted from other books, probably because they are so obvious that authors forget their significance for students.

This first section of the book also includes a chapter on classification, which (though a bit light on the subject of volcanic rocks) is written with a very healthy degree of scepticism. It includes the amusing statement, referring to the problem of the proliferation of names for extremely rare rock types that "the entire mass of rock that fits the specific definitions could be carried away by a small child". A former mentor of mine, a Scotsman, used to advise his students to dispose of small and embarrassingly inexplicable exposures by kicking a turf over them, but Barker's idea of taking a small child along as a field assistant might also be effective.

Despite many excellent features, however, this book is rather disappointing in that it fails to convey any sense of excitement. Though worthy, it doubt if it will win over readers who are not already committed to igneous geology. Also, the general lack of contrast in the photographs of rocks and somewhat uninspired choice of igneous phenomena in the field, will hardly help the author to catch the student's imagination.

One other serious flaw is the ex-

travely thin coverage of geochemistry. Like many other subjects, igneous geology has developed historically from an initial descriptive phase, through a phase in which the desire to understand processes was dominant, into the present applied stage in which the main point is to use igneous rocks to tell us about the way the Earth and the solar system actually work. Without a serious discussion of geochemistry and without coverage of additional topics such as meteorites and other aspects of the solar system, it is very difficult to present igneous rocks in their most interesting context. However, the addition of this material might have made the book unacceptably long.

R. E. Passingham

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On the fingers of one hand

Numbers: their history and meaning by Graham Flegg
Deutsch, £14.95 and £8.95
ISBN 0 233 97282 X and 97516 0

Intended for a society much beset with problems over mathematics, this book analyses those problems into low, middle and high parts. The high part includes, for example, the astonishing inability of undergraduates to perform simple computations. The low part concerns those people — too numerous for the health of the economy but probably less numerous than other trades union officials or school teachers of mathematics like to think — who don't see why a three-week strike isn't worthwhile if the outcome is only a wage increase of five per cent.

Flegg's concentration is on a task, however, on the middle problem — that, despite all efforts, "an organized understanding of the various aspects of numbers is almost universally lacking". His attack on this position is forthright: his intention is to show "that numbers have been at the centre of man's awareness of his surroundings since well before any times of which we have surviving records... as society has grown and developed, it has never outgrown its dependence upon numbers". And he intends to do this in a book for the general reader.

He begins with the notion of counting and so distinguishes the two ideas of one-to-one correspondence (that is, cardinal numbers) and order. This leads him on to a description of finger counting in various parts of the world, together with other counting systems and their geographical distributions. The next step is notational: tallies and the long history of numerical notation from Egypt onwards.

The central chapter of the book, however, is that on "Calculating with numbers". In which Flegg sounds a major note of concern: "The pocket calculator is already reducing our practice in calculation. Total reliance on artificial aids would be a major disaster. We cannot guarantee that such aids will invariably be to hand". To my mind this underestimates the seriousness of the situation, for the real trouble is that if we cannot calculate ourselves, we can have no idea of what the



Three penguin cormorants, a species numerous in Australia and New Zealand. The photograph is taken from *Seabirds* by Eric Hosking (Croom Helm, £13.95).

calculator is doing, so that we will never have any idea of when we have pressed the wrong button, and, what is worse, we can never discover how to use it in any new way.

Flegg deals extensively with the wide variety of methods (many now wrongly neglected) of setting out the basic arithmetical process in the Hindu-Arabic numerals, also discussing the abacus and counting-board. It is fair to comment that very few general readers and few mathematicians could read this chapter without being encouraged to improve substantially their abilities at calculation with large numbers. The later parts of this chapter deal with extracting the square root, the surprise being that the simple iterative method (that is, Newton's method) is traced back to Heron's *Metrica* of the first century AD, in which he extracted the cube root and proposed logarithms.

This is followed by historical accounts of machines, up to Charles Babbage, with a little on later developments, and the solution of numerical equations and numerical recreations. In a chapter on "Thinking about numbers", Flegg sketches a number of "cognitive" themes: the development of real and complex numbers and set theory as a foundation for arithmetic.

In the final chapter, on "Teaching and learning numbers", Flegg emphasizes the importance of distinguishing numbers from numerals, the importance of addition as the fundamental operation, the great value that should be attached to calculation on the fingers (Leonardo of Pisa wrote "Multiplication on the fingers must be practised constantly") and the importance of checking and approximations. There is no gainsaying the importance of Flegg's task. In his terms, he has aimed his excellent book correctly at the middle problem. How much good will it do? I suspect that, although it deserves better success, it will illuminate the approach of only a small proportion of "the middle sort of people". However, it should make up for this by the background enlightenment that it might provide for teachers in training, those training them, and even those few mathematics undergraduates who care to think about the historical beginnings of their subject.

C. W. Kilmister

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BOOKS

ECONOMICS

The pound in your pocket

Sterling in Decline: the devaluations of 1931, 1949 and 1967

by Alec Cairncross and Barry J. Elchengreen

Blackwell, £19.50

ISBN 0 631 13368 2

Until recently most countries operated a system of fixed exchange rates. Changes in these rates were rare and usually unwelcome. The prospect of a forced alteration created periods of great drama, starting with tense debates and stern denials and ending in crisis and recommitment. What was in part a narrow technical question calling for economic expertise and careful judgment, was also a political and moral issue; and decisions to change or not to change were generally taken on that basis.

Britain endured this traumatic experience on three occasions. The Cabinet decided not to devalue in 1930-31, in the spring of 1949 and in 1964, and each time was rapidly forced to reverse its decision. Inadequate reserves and hesitant ministers were no match for the enormous pressure of short-term capital flows moving against a currency under threat of devaluation. The consequences of these episodes - and of the related decision to go back onto the gold standard in 1925 at the pre-1914 parity of \$4.86 - are still with us. Their effects have entered political folklore: from "Nobody told us we could do that" in 1931, to "The pound in your pocket will not be devalued" in 1967. They figure prominently in any historical evaluation of the country's economic and political life. Churchill, Snowden, Cripps, Gaiskill, Wilson and Callaghan, and their advisers: from Keynes and Norman to Kaldor and Balogh. And the extent and timing of the devaluations, and their accompanying measures, have had significant effects on Britain's domestic economy and on its economic relations with its trading partners and those who invested in sterling - sometimes involuntarily.

A full length comparative study of these three occasions thus promises to be of considerable interest and value. Sir Alec Cairncross is responsible for the chapters on 1949 and 1967, and is exceptionally well qualified for the task. His earliest work (on Britain's pre-1914 home and foreign investment) displayed all the best features of the "new" economic history - quantification and the use of economic theory - some three decades before that mode of historical inquiry was noisily invented on the other side of the Atlantic. Subsequently he moved to Whitehall, where he was ideally placed to observe and reflect on the debates over currency changes. In 1949 as economic adviser to the Board of Trade, in 1967 as head of the Government Economic Service. His co-author, Barry Elchengreen, who wrote the chapters on 1931, is one of the leading young American economic historians, and has specialized in the study of Britain's interwar trade and exchange rate policies.

The book opens with clear and helpful summaries of the changing economic "models" used, the analysis of exchange rates, and of the trends in Britain's international trade and payments since the 1920s. Then follow three substantial chapters, in each there is first a thorough examination of the forces leading to the particular devaluation, with an effective blend of historical narrative and economic and political analysis; then an evaluation of its macroeconomic consequences and of its implications for economic policy-making and performance. The important concluding chapter brings together the three episodes, looking at their similarities and differences in background situation and policy response, and assessing the overall effectiveness of



Sir Alec Cairncross

devaluation. The style throughout is lucid and straightforward with an occasional sharp comment to enliven the text.

Of the three major chapters the one on 1949 is in many ways the freshest and most interesting. The records for 1931 have by now been open for more than twenty years, and a number of scholars have already published their accounts of the period. For 1967 it is too soon for access to the archives, and the broad outline of events will already be familiar to many readers; 1949 falls neatly in between. The Treasury records are open but their contents are still novel. The dust has settled: the participants have given us their memoirs and diaries, and left the field.

The analysis contains many fascinating items. In relation to the Cabinet it reveals the crucial role played by Hugh Gaiskill, with support from Douglas Jay. It was they who carried the debate forward and who made the final decision. Cripps acquiesced in the end but was basically opposed to devaluation on principle, on the grounds that it involved a surrender to market forces. Wilson also vacillated, and although a late convert was easier said to be taken "refuge in ambiguity". The Prime Minister had "perhaps the oddest view of all as to what was involved" and "had difficulty in seeing any connexion between the balance of payments and the budget". This last point relates to a familiar issue which was at the centre of much of the internal debate in the spring and summer of 1949: the extent to which cuts in public expenditure were needed. Cairncross demonstrates the deep conflict and distrust between Labour Ministers, uniformly hostile to "everlasting cuts" (in 1949) and their advisers, some of whom supported devaluation but thought it would not work without such cuts, while others went even further and argued that with them it was unnecessary.

On the key economic issues it is shown that in the end the compelling factor which determined the devaluation was the lack of reserves, not a

careful balancing of the arguments by officials, still less by Ministers; that debate was dominated by short-term considerations. "When it was argued that the decisive factor was long term", that the major consideration should have been the relevance of the exchange rate to Britain's trade with dollar countries, not the overall balance; and that the decision was delayed well beyond the point of maximum advantage.

Finally Cairncross gives his verdict on the impact of the change in the rate from \$4.02 to \$2.80 - in nominal terms an extremely large reduction, though the effective (trade-weighted) drop was only 9 per cent. He argues that it helped to reverse the critical drain of gold and dollars from the reserves. Improved Britain's competitive position without stimulating inflationary spirals of wages and prices; and contributed to a better relationship between sterling and the dollar, an "indispensable element in postwar reconstruction".

In their overall evaluation the scores even more highly since long the gold standard helped to create conditions for the impressive economic recovery in the 1950s. In 1967, in contrast, devaluation was a "five worked slowly and steadily". These three episodes were separated by intervals of exactly five years. Simple extrapolation suggests that the next stage in the drama should occur in the autumn of 1985. Under that times it cannot take precisely the same form; but there are many reasons apart from simple arithmetic, for thinking that before long we shall again be seeing a government vainly attempting to stem irresistible pressure for the next big downward move in the long history of the decline in the value of the pound against the dollar.

Charles Feinstein

Charles Feinstein is professor of economic and social history at the University of York.

Opposing camps

Output, Inflation and Growth: an introduction to macroeconomics (third edition)

by D. C. ROWAN

Macmillan, £9.80

ISBN 0 333 35154 1

D. C. Rowan suggests in this substantially revised edition of his well-known introductory macroeconomics text that there is no longer a consensus view in macroeconomics which allows the subject to be presented as if it were a single, accepted body of knowledge. Thus after a general introduction to national income accounting and basic concepts, he presents two important new sections: one on "neo-Keynesian" economics, and the other on "monetarist" economics. The remainder of the book covers a range of subjects, from economic growth and inflation, to theories of the money supply and economic policy issues.

While it is perhaps a matter of taste whether an introductory text should divide economic theory into opposing camps in this way, any view is that it is generally undesirable. This is not to deny that there

are genuine disagreements between economists. However, many of the differences emphasized in this text are concerned with relatively sophisticated points of analysis and are matters of degree rather than of principle. It will be able to judge whether they are substantial.

Leaving this matter aside, however, the text is well written and clear, a great deal of material. The first two chapters, which cover the real sector of the economy and include budgetary exercises, are particularly good. However, the later chapters on monetary theory and the price level are more advanced and students may have difficulty with the treatment of aggregate demand and supply. For example, it introduces three different approaches and adds complications as the interdependence of supply and demand and the presence of uncertainty.

Thus, the average first-year student will find parts of this text hard going. Second-year students will find it much better, but there are a number of popular texts already directed at that market. The publisher's suggestion that this book be suitable for A level students should not be taken seriously.

David Shepherd

David Shepherd is lecturer in economics at Imperial College, London.

BOOKS

ECONOMICS

A choice of evils

Tax Policy-Making in the United Kingdom: a study of rationality, ideology and politics

by Aon Robinson and Cedric Sandford

Heinemann Educational, £15.00

ISBN 0 435 84784 8

The period between 1964 and 1975 was one of considerable tax innovation in the UK; many new taxes were created, and significant changes were made to existing taxes. The history of public finance shows that governments seem to have an infinite capacity for inventing new taxes for any new "emergency", although such inventive activity has been rare in peacetime. Furthermore, those changes which have occurred were made in the absence of any comprehensive review of the tax system, with the result that the system is now extremely complex, and full of contradictions.

Robinson and Sandford ask why so many new taxes were created, how the policies were made, and how effective were the processes of planning and decision making. Their study concentrates on eight detailed cases: capital gains tax, corporation tax (classical and imputation system), selective employment tax, value added tax, capital transfer tax, the tax-credit scheme and an annual wealth tax (although the last two never reached the statute book). Their answers to the three questions (why, how, and how well) are brief: for ill defined reasons of "equity" rather than revenue, not usually worked out by the parties before taking office; in a variety of ways, depending on the perceived aims of the tax; very badly.

The most useful part of this book is the middle section which traces the history of the introduction of the eight taxes, starting from the political parties, through the department, the floor of the House of Commons and the select committees. The descriptive material here makes an interesting narrative, which will be useful to those studying the complex and varied process of law-making. Unfortunately the analysis of the important issues raised in the book is of less value. The first chapter attempts to describe a framework of analysis. It distinguishes between economic and political decision-making "models", though none is adequately defined, and the so-called economic model is set up out of context as a caricature. Robinson and Sandford state that most previous commentators on the British tax system have fallen into the trap of using the model of "rational economic choice" (page 15), without

any supporting reference. There is a brief discussion of the important problem of clarifying the objectives of tax policy, but the authors never really get to grips with the difficulties. Decisions are later described as "political" or "ideological" as if this answered a question about objectives. Although the authors carried out many interviews, there is very little direct evidence in the book about what politicians wanted to do, and what they thought they were doing. When discussing the lack of coordination between wealth tax and capital transfer tax proposals, the statement that "we can only presume that these omissions reflected political decisions" (page 103) begs the question. Too often the reader is bombarded with questions which are then not even discussed.

One more surprising omission may be mentioned. There is no discussion of tax incidence - the difficult question of precisely who bears the "burden" of a tax - despite the fact that attitudes towards taxes depend crucially on views of their incidence. For example, are increases in value

added tax or corporation tax, or employers' national insurance contributions, fully "shifted" to consumers in the form of higher prices? This point is especially important when changes in the tax system are being considered. In the context of new taxes, tax capitalization is an important concept, though this is not mentioned either. Mortgage interest allowed, for example, is often described as an "expenditure tax" which benefits the householder. But its effect may simply be to increase the capital value of the property when the tax is introduced, so that subsequent owners do not actually gain. It would be interesting to know the attitudes of those closely concerned with policy analysis to these issues.

The authors provide a depressing picture of tax policy making, but a wider perspective would perhaps lighten the gloom.

John Creedy

John Creedy is professor of economics at the University of Durham.

Money matters

Monetary Policy since 1971: conduct and performance

by Maximilian Hall

Macmillan, £6.95

ISBN 0 333 33141 9

Maximilian Hall's eminently sane and balanced book tells the inevitably complicated story of recent everyday monetary life in Britain as it really has been. There is no trace of that fairy-story quality revealed by so much recent macroeconomic writing. It describes in considerable detail the developments in monetary policy in the last decade, from the ambitions of competition and credit control, the spirit of which had collapsed by the end of 1973, to the medium-term financial strategy of 1980, which is subjected to careful, comprehensive and damning criticism in the final two chapters.

For many years there has been a need for a monetary textbook to update Sayers's great *Modern Bankers* (which covered a far larger area than this title implied). The gift of Sayers was that by teaching what actually happened to the balance-sheet of banks, discount houses and the Bank of England as, for example, the monetary authorities intervened in the foreign exchange market or the discount houses were forced to borrow at the central bank, he gave the reader a feel for necessarily obscure and "technical" events. In his lengthy appendices and at a number of points in the text, Hall goes some way to achieve the same objective. The implications for monetary control of government intervention in the gilt-edged and money markets, of numerous balance of payments flows and of the abolition of exchange controls are comprehensively described, and if the style is terse where Sayers's was elegant this is at least in part due to the greatly increased complexity of the present financial environment.

One drawback is that Hall assumes the reader to have a good working knowledge of British financial markets, institutions and assets. Thus the second and third-year undergraduate on a course in monetary economics, for whom the book is mainly intended, must first acquire this knowledge elsewhere. It is often said that the best textbooks grow out of courses of lectures. Hall's book apparently resulted from a series of research papers, and therefore risks being treated as a reference work. This would be a pity, for interspersed among the painstaking blow-by-blow accounts of competition and credit control and the medium term financial strategy are valuable teaching sections including chapters on monetary base control, and chapter seven on the rationale and shortcomings of the Government's macroeconomic policies since March 1980.

Hall's respect for the institutional facts of life is most welcome, and contrasts strongly with much recent academic work which accepts lock, stock and barrel the dogma of monetarism. Hall maintains that since governments and central banks will in general continue to insist that they should exercise some responsibility for rates of interest and exchange rates as well as for monetary aggregates, any strict regulation such as monetary base control must be ruled out. In any case, emphasis on any single monetary aggregate necessarily distorts an economy in which financial choices concerning assets, markets and institutions abound.

From this work a pessimistic but very important message comes over loud and clear: effective monetary control is probably impossible to achieve in a competitive financial system within an open economy. The message of a famous committee which reported nearly twenty-five years ago is brought to mind: monetary policy can help, but that is all.

Paul Herrington

Paul Herrington is senior lecturer in economics at the University of Leicester.

Broad survey

The West German Economy

by Eric Owen Smith

Croom Helm, £16.95

ISBN 0 7099 1924 7

It is surprising that in the ten years since the publication of Graham Waller's *The Social Economy of West Germany*, no other English textbook on the West German economy has appeared. In 1973 Hallett could write: "The problems of the next few decades will be environmental and social rather than those of achieving economic growth." Eric Owen Smith shows how much conditions have changed since then. His selective 1983 problem list of "relative high labour costs, stagnating and even falling capital investment, increasing crude oil prices, an appreciating exchange rate, a spectacularly increasing balance of trade, and direct capital outflows".

The author holds the view that the

German economy has always been subject to severe long-term fluctuations (this, given two world wars, is hardly surprising) and has now apparently entered a cycle of slow decline. However his argument is not entirely clear since the author contents himself with a factual account of the period 1950-1980 supplemented by many (too many?) tables and graphs without much interpretation.

The first chapters contain an outline of West Germany's economic history, followed by a broad survey of the major features of the economy. Subsequent chapters dwell on the role of the state in the "social market economy" and then proceed to an analysis of major sectors, such as the labour market, banking (the two best chapters in the book), and industry. However the book lacks any detailed consideration of the West German economy's international links and a chapter on agriculture.

The author does not discuss the social market economy model in detail, neither does he provide a coherent alternative approach and so fails to establish general criteria for an overall assessment. High living standards, a

H. W. Lohnes

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HARBURY - LIPSEY

An Introduction to the UK Economy A Companion for Positive Economics

Publication: August 1983

Professor Richard Lipsey (*An Introduction to Positive Economics*, Weldenfield and Nicolson) and Professor Colin Harbury (*Descriptive Economics*, Pitman) have combined their talents and experience to produce the most up-to-date and comprehensive introduction to the UK economy yet published.

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BOOKS

ECONOMICS

North Sea riches

Oil and the British Economy

By Stephen G. Hall and Fred Atkinson

Croom Helm, £12.95

ISBN 0 7099 0528 9

The development of the UK oil industry and self-sufficiency in oil since 1980 has coincided with the deepest economic recession since the 1930s. Those looking for scapegoats for de-industrialization and unemployment have pointed to oil as a prime cause.

The authors of this useful book firmly and rightly reject this view. How can a natural resource discovery, if it is managed properly, make a country poorer when it contributes directly to output, saves foreign exchange and provides tax revenue to government? The fact that the resource is a tradeable commodity and earns foreign exchange does not mean that the exchange rate must necessarily rise and that other sectors of the economy must contract.

Indeed, it has been an unfortunate coincidence that Britain's greatest economic fortune in the twentieth century has coincided with a government committed to squeezing inflation out of the economic system at any price in the mystical belief that the dragon having been slain, a phoenix will arise from the ashes.

The book is not only about oil; it also represents an indictment of government economic policy since 1979, made more poignant by the fact that Sir Frederick Atkinson is a former chief economic advisor to the Treasury. Some measure of the mess that the economy is in is provided by calculating what the current scenario would look like without oil contributing £10 billion to the balance of payments and £6 billion to tax revenue which has largely been used to reduce the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR).

The book is conveniently divided into three parts. The first documents the history of the exploitation and production of gas and oil, and also considers depletion policy. The second is concerned with the impact of oil on the rest of the economy and also considers the experience of other countries, while part three deals with the past and future management of the economy.

From the various estimates of the stock of oil reserves, from the habitual caution of the companies to the optimism of Professor Peter Odell, the authors take a likely figure of four thousand million tons which at current levels of consumption would last the country for approximately fifty years.

As far as depletion policy is concerned it is argued that at least 1-2 per cent of this reserve could be legitimately consumed every year, representing the likely income from the capital asset. As far as investment savings are concerned the oil may as well be left in the ground. The authors suggest therefore a depletion rate roughly equal to domestic consumption. This also guarantees security and is probably the rate required to induce the companies to produce.

On the effect of natural resource discoveries on the rest of the economy there is a simple discussion for students of the original Gregory model which predicted an absolute contraction of the tradeable goods sector. Gregory made it clear, however, that his model was a comparative static exercise and that if the economy is growing or investing overseas the decline in the tradeable goods sector need only be a relative one and not an absolute one. It is a pity that Kay and Forsyth in their original analysis of the impact of North Sea oil, which the authors also discuss, did not make this crystal clear from the start.

There are many ways of dissipating foreign exchange gains from a newly discovered tradeable resource without the exchange rate rising.

None the less, the exchange rate did

rise, some would say catastrophically. How much was due to the pound as a petro-currency is difficult to say. Not much, in my view. Interest rates were also very high, and consider what the current account of the balance of payments and the exchange rate would have been had the economy been maintained on a positive growth path.

The authors launch strong attacks on monetarism, the government's medium term financial strategy and the public sector borrowing requirement. They confuse however when they keep repeating that inflation is a monetary phenomenon, as if this was an acceptable statement to non-monetarist economists. They note that both the National Institute of Economic and Social Research and the London Business School estimate that government policy is responsible for approximately 70 per cent of the fall in output since 1979.

Finally, they consider alternative policies performing simulations with the national institute model. A £5 billion reduction in any form would not stop unemployment from rising. They opt in the end for a reflationary package of public investment which would restore the PSBR/GDP ratio which has fallen virtually continuously since 1955. This would imply of course using North Sea oil revenue to promote growth rather than to thwart it, although they are against an earmarked investment fund. This I think is a pity and would be my only disagreement with an otherwise well argued and well documented book, ideal for students.

A. P. Thirlwall

A. P. Thirlwall is professor of applied economics at the University of Kent.

Rescue operations

The IRC - an Experiment in Industrial Intervention: a History of the Industrial Reorganization Corporation

By Douglas Hague and Geoffrey Wilkinson

Allen & Unwin, £18.50

ISBN 0 04 338105 7

The Industrial Reorganisation Corporation (IRC) had on effective life of only three years from 1967 to 1970, but in that time it had a dramatic and controversial impact on British industry.

The IRC's supporters credit it with securing the GEC-AEI-English Electric merger under Arnold Weinstock; its detractors point to the formation of British Leyland. The IRC also prevented Rank from taking over Cambridge Instruments, took an active part in the restructuring of the bill bearing and machine tool industries, and was involved in rescue operations for Rolls-Royce, Cammell Laird and several other companies. The decision to abolish it was described by the *Sunday Times* as "sheer wanton murder".

Douglas Hague and Geoffrey Wilkinson have produced the first comprehensive account of the IRC's activities. It is a first-class piece of work: comprehensive, well-informed, systematically organized, clearly written, and accompanied by thoughtful and perceptive comments. It will be invaluable for politicians, civil servants, businessmen and economists concerned with UK industrial policy, but at the same time the book is quite accessible to the general reader.

The first part of the book traces the IRC's origins in the ideas of the Industrialist B. R. Cant, Tony Benn's Ministry of Technology, and Labour Party economists. The aim was to rationalize and restructure British industry into larger, more efficient units. The IRC was also able to establish or develop any industrial enterprise if requested to do so by the Secretary of State. Broadly speaking, then, the IRC's tasks were to promote mergers and facilitate rescue operations. Part two of the book examines six of the major mergers in which the IRC participated. Part three discusses four cases of rescue and restoration. In both activities the IRC's record is one of mixed success. The final chapter is a review and appraisal of the IRC's record and importance.

Hague and Wilkinson are sceptical about the IRC's first duty. "Despite considerable success," the IRC met

gers have not reversed the relative decline in the performance of UK manufacturing industry. Nor could they have been expected to do so. Indeed, the IRC gradually came to devote a greater part of its efforts to stimulating investment rather than promoting mergers," and saw "enormous potential in this 'development bank' role". The authors share this enthusiasm, concluding that there is a clear role for a small, very flexible and, as far as possible, apolitical institution to act as a go-between to develop an expertise in this difficult area linking government and industry" (page 246).

The point about mergers is well taken. The White Paper claimed that "There is no evidence that we can rely on market forces alone to produce the necessary structural changes at the pace required." This underestimates both the systematic tendency of the market process to transfer control of resources to those demonstrating greatest ability to persuade and meet consumers' needs (by, for example, the choice of efficient organizational structures), and also the difficulty of supplanting or improving upon this market process by either state intervention. In so far as the IRC merely smoothed the way within government, by ensuring that there would be no reference to the Monopolies Commission (for example, the GEC and Leyland mergers), it would seem more appropriate to reconsider the existing procedure for approving and referring potential mergers.

Whether there is a stronger case for a development bank is more debatable. Why are existing merchant banks inadequate to fill this role? Presumably, because there are now commercial actions to be undertaken for "social" reasons. But this can scarcely be apolitical, as witness the government's request to rescue Cammell Laird despite the decision of the Shipbuilding Industries Board not to become involved.

What seems to be required is a prior statement of "the public interest", and specifically the Government's obligations in respect of employment. This in turn requires an analysis of the legitimacy of "property rights in jobs". The effectiveness of an IRC-type institution can then be appraised against alternative methods of fulfilling these obligations (such as redundancy schemes).

Issues far beyond the scope of the book, but Hague and Wilkinson's book will illuminate all future discussions in this area.

S. C. Littlechild

S. C. Littlechild is professor of commerce and head of the department of industrial economics and business studies of the University of Birmingham.

BOOKS

ECONOMICS

Market share

Folded, Spindled, and Mutilated:

economic analysis and US v IBM

by Franklin M. Fisher, John J. McGowan and Joan E. Greenwood

MIT Press, £22.80

ISBN 0 262 06086 8

In January 1969 the US antitrust authorities, who had been investigating IBM since 1967, initiated proceedings against the company under the Sherman Act. The proceedings were abruptly terminated as "without merit" in January 1982. This book is an account of the defence case provided for IBM by the authors. They openly admit that they are participants in a legal case; and while this must constantly be borne in mind by the reader, it has not seriously marred the book, which is extremely valuable in a number of ways.

First, it clearly demonstrates the value of industry studies. In particular chapter four on market share shows that there really is no substitute for a detailed knowledge of an industry. Second, it shows conclusively the dangers of using market share as a measure of monopoly power and demonstrates the arbitrary use to which definition of the market can be put. Third, the book shows the totally misleading nature of the perfectly competitive model in a dynamic world, and illustrates the widening gap between theory and the existing but intractable real world. Fourth, and most importantly, it points out the fact that the essence of competition is constraints on behaviour. Only if a firm is not constrained by competition from raising price or supplying inferior products is there monopoly power. The authors introduce the concepts of "demand substitution" (ie the extent to which consumers can substitute) and "supply substitution" (ie the extent to which suppliers can supply competing products) applying these to the IBM case.

The focus on constraints helps to bring out the distinguishing nature of markets for producers' goods. It has been recognized since the literature which followed Chamberlin's seminal contribution that the idea of "irrational consumer preferences" was even

weaker than usual where a producer was dealing with professional buyers. But this insight has been frequently neglected since the 1930s and this book helps to make it clear. In chapter seven the authors show how the facile use of static equilibrium models, coupled with accounting data, can produce nonsensical identification of monopoly profit. This is a devastating analysis which deserves to be very widely read, especially by those who conduct this kind of research.

But the book does have a number of drawbacks. Perhaps understandably the authors do not make much effort to do justice to alternative views. For instance, IBM ended its practice of full-line supply ("bundling") after the start of entrust investigation, and forced leasing was only abandoned as a result of an earlier antitrust action. Both points are mentioned in the book, but not in detail. Again the extent to which IBM has been prepared to allow "plug compatibility" may depend upon the vigour with which antitrust is being pursued at the time; and while the erection by IBM of barriers to "reverse engineering" (copying) by other firms is both understandable and legitimate, new developments in this field (particularly microcoding) may undermine the freedom of entry which Fisher et al believe to exist. In the discussion of barriers to entry (chapter six) the authors underestimate the importance of patents, imperfect access to capital, and scarce resource control (including control of a pool of skilled labour).

The work of earlier writers is ignored to the point where the general economic discussions (as distinct from the detailed discussions of IBM) acquire, I am sure accidentally, a spurious air of originality. Thus in dealing with barriers to entry even Bain is mentioned at only one point. But discussion of this concept (and much else relevant to the book, such as the "conditionality" of monopoly) goes back at least to Marshall. In downplaying the importance of capital requirement as an entry barrier, the authors refer to entry by already established firms - but P.W.S. Andrews figures nowhere in the account. Chamberlin and Schumpeter merit not even one reference despite all the valuable material concerning product competition and innovation.

Despite these faults this is a book which should be read by everyone interested in competition policy. Even busy civil servants should at least have time to read chapter nine with its checklist for policymakers contemplating antitrust action.

D. P. O'Brien

D. P. O'Brien is professor of economics at the University of Durham.

Stimulus to argument

Controversies in Macroeconomics

second edition

by K. A. Chrystal

Philip Allan, £10.00 and £4.95

ISBN 086003 053 9 and 147 0

Controversies in macroeconomics influence policy; one cannot afford to view the spectacle of economists in disagreement with the detached amusement it deserves. To a great degree, however, Alice Chrystal manages to give a dispassionate account of current rival theories - Keynesian, monetarist and new classical - against the background of what she calls textbook models of the economy.

A number of current issues are then examined from the three rival points of view: the balance of payments and exchange rates, the conjunction of inflation and unemployment, the crowding-out potential of government expenditure, business cycles and supply shocks - namely, all the issues that those who know the first edition of this book will observe that there have been considerable changes in coverage. The unsuccessful chapter on foreign trade has been dropped along with subsequent reference to evidence that the "crowding out" results from the Treasury model have been refuted. This edition is thus more straightforwardly theoretical and more pertinent in its approach.

New classical economics has been introduced at the expense of new monetarism, which may partly explain

the change of title: the first edition was called *Controversies in British Macroeconomics*. The applications, if not the analysis, remain entirely British, however.

The exposition is lucid and the author makes his personal positions on the applied issues clear. To him the exchange rate regime is a critical issue; he attributes the absence of growth in Britain in the 1970s to the effect of "the policy swings that floating permits"; the overvalued exchange rate in 1979-80 and repercussions of fluctuations in US monetary policy. The provocative style of the first edition has been toned down, but the provocative conclusions have been retained.

While the concluding chapter, now called "Macroeconomics in the 1980s", is admirable as a stimulus to further argument, it is rather a pity that the content of the last chapter of the first edition has been dropped. This chapter, called "The Truth", perhaps disappointed too many hopeful but unimpressed students. Its message, that economic theories seldom go out of fashion because they are wrong but rather because they lose their relevance as conditions change, is a point that demands to be made in any book contrasting rival theories. I am also dismayed that Dr Chrystal has so fully dropped both the labour market, "market failure" interpretation of macroeconomics. Despite superficial differences in the theories he surveys, they are all, as apparently Dr Chrystal now himself, neoclassical.

Victoria Chick

Victoria Chick is lecturer in political economy at the University of College London.

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ECONOMICS

Crisis in the East

The Planned Economies of Eastern Europe

by Alan H. Smith

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ISBN 0 7099 2326 0

It is easy enough, nowadays, to find newspaper articles referring to the crisis facing Eastern Europe, though it is less easy to find a clear explanation of its origins and nature. To construct an explanation, we need to know about the main characteristics of the Eastern European planning systems and their likely responses to internal and external strains. The particular strains that are of interest are the internal ones resulting from struggles over the appropriate development strategy, and the more recent external ones giving rise to convertible currency payments problems.

Of course, there remain some important differences between the nations of Eastern Europe in their resource endowments, their relationship with the Soviet Union and in their internal politics (and hence also in their economic policies and performance) so any attempt to write about the region as a whole is inevitably a risky undertaking; a lot of important detail pertaining to the individual countries is bound to be lost. Nevertheless, Alan Smith has

made a very worthwhile attempt to treat Eastern Europe as a whole and by covering some unusual topics he has produced a very useful book.

Part one, the first four chapters, deals with the origins and operation of central planning. Smith emphasizes that initially very high growth rates generally declined after the plans of the early 1950s, while surplus labour, mainly transferring out of agriculture, was absorbed successfully in other expanding sectors. Eventually, it became clear that further growth would depend on the acquisition of new or improved technology, together with improvements in economic organization.

The last chapter of part one discusses organizational impediments to innovation such as the usual separation of research and development institutes from productive enterprises and the fact that innovation is likely to interrupt current production and hence poses a threat to managerial bonuses. By the mid-1960s the need for economic reform was widely accepted, but there was little consensus on how to proceed. Only Hungary introduced radical reforms that eliminated part of the cumbersome 1950s planning apparatus, while elsewhere the main emphasis was on seeking to improve the centralized model.

The three chapters of part two are concerned with consumer equilibrium, macroeconomic equilibrium and the control of inflation. It is well known that the inflexibilities of planning systems result in surpluses of some goods and shortages of others. What is far less clear is whether it is correct to characterize the planned economies as suffering from generalized excess demand, or whether the basic problem is simply that relative prices are wrong. The issue is germane to the question of inflation in Eastern Europe. Evidence appears to

be very mixed, though high savings balances held by the population in some countries suggest that open inflation is being repressed by direct controls over prices.

Part three examines the international economic situation in Eastern Europe, outlining the main institutions concerned with trade, and unsuccessful efforts of Comecon in progress towards economic integration in the region. In the early 1970s countries such as Poland, facing support for internal reforms and expectations about rising living standards, adopted an ambitious development strategy of import-led growth. The aim was to raise investment sharply, with the help of imported technology and equipment. The initial costs to be repaid later by means of increased hard currency exports. In practice, the combination of the energy crisis, western recession and poor investment choices led to the East European crisis referred to at the start of this review. The crisis is most severe in Poland, but other countries are still facing serious difficulties. Paradoxically, reformers are most needed just as the economic climate is least conducive to them.

Overall, I found Smith's account and analysis of these problems extremely interesting. At times it is rather hard to decide whether points are general ones, or just specific to one or two countries. In addition, it would have been useful for the book to close with a chapter summarizing the present economic position of Eastern Europe and suggesting some feasible ways of summing up the crisis.

Paul Hare

Dr Hare is reader in economics at the University of Stirling.



Keynes

and underpins this book's position on the subject. It will be read with pleasure and interest.

Peter Sinclair

Peter Sinclair is fellow and tutor in economics at Brasenose College, Oxford.

The publication of volumes XI and XII of *The Collected Writings of John Maynard Keynes* means that the last of the now almost complete edition of his works is about to be published. These two volumes are devoted to Keynes's economic articles and the correspondence relating to them (Macmillan, £22.00 net volume).

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The First Industrial Nation: an

economic history of Britain 1700-1914

(second edition)

by Peter Mathias

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Since its first appearance in 1969 *The First Industrial Nation* has been widely recognized as the premier textbook on modern British economic history. Its value to students has been immense in unfolding the complicated story of Britain's economic miracle with calm, unfussy authority.

It is well organized, always coherent and it enables the reader to maintain a clear sense of chronology even when, as it must, it ranges across the decades in pursuit of trade cycles, investment rates and demographic change. Though students are reluctant to use it in their essays, the book also provides them with an imposing arsenal of statistical appendices on trade, population, manufacturing and agricultural output. The uncluttered sanity of the synthesis is just sufficiently enlivened by the unusual example or the telling anecdote to guard against any charge of blandness. The whole is a model of the textbook writer's art.

A second edition was, therefore, to be expected. In introducing it, Professor Mathias asserts that, while he has incorporated some new research, he has tried to 'maintain the same structure and family resemblance to the text of 1969'. He certainly succeeds. Every chapter bears the same title as before; even the subdivisions of those chapters are identically titled. The 39 statistical tables of the appendix, which draw heavily on the work of B.R. Mitchell and Phyllis Deane, are retained as before save for minor corrections and the completion (the bibulous will be gratified to learn) of beer consumption estimates for the period 1930-80, omitted from the previous edition in the absence of exact figures.

Professor Mathias also fastidiously avoids unnecessary tinkering with the text. A new adjective is selected here, a qualifying sentence (on the differential operation of land tax in the regions, say, or on investment rates as a proportion of gross national product) added at the end of a paragraph there. More substantial revisions may, of course, be found. The most important of these concern the so-called great depression period where Mathias now grows rates from 1855 to 1937 based on the work of Matthews, Feinstein and Odling-Smee. He lays greater stress than before both on declining manpower productivity rates from the 1870s and on lower British wage costs than those of the USA as a disincentive to investment in new machinery during the crucial period of retardation. Similarly, the demographic sections now bear the imprint of the massive researches of Wrigley, Schofield and the Cambridge Group for the Study of Population and Social Structure. G.R. Hawley's concept of 'social savings' via railway development is discussed in a new, sceptical paragraph, while recent work on foreign trade values and capital exports has provoked some rethinking. Despite these, the book's broad conclusions, like its overall structure, remain unaltered.

Having anticipated more radical changes, I experienced initial dissatisfaction that they had not been made. Surely the work of McCloskey, Martin and Turner on eighteenth-century economies or Cantilane on nineteenth-century urban development was important enough to merit more specific treatment? The economic importance of the growth of organized leisure, much studied during the 1970s, receives no new mention here that could detract. Did not Mathias consider, on reflection, that his original treatment of the importance of agriculture had been on the meagre side? Apparently not.

On consideration of this revised text, however, most of my doubts evaporated. The book continues to work marvelously well as a textbook. Mathias, despite my misgivings, was surely right to avoid making the kind of wholesale changes which risked creating a half-baked new volume rather than a modestly changed version of one which has simply proved its value. On a deeper level, too, the author has been shrewd. The 1970s proved a decade of consolidation for the discipline of economic history. Gaps have been filled; much new regional research has been put in train. But, as yet and with the partial exception of demography, no fundamental reappraisal of the nature of British economic development is required to replace the findings of the 1960s. Certainly the fruits of the application of econometric analysis to history have been much more meagre than some once predicted. Perhaps more may be expected from the reintegration of work by social and economic historians since the former can now count while the latter increasingly emphasize what Professor Mathias calls 'the human dimension'.

If so, it makes the recent decision to separate the disciplines for the purposes of SSRC research funding the more enigmatic, perplexing and potentially damaging.

However this may be, Professor Mathias's decision not to tinker more almost certainly the right one. *The First Industrial Nation* will establish itself for the 1980s, as the 1970s, as the Liverpool among textbooks in its field: durable, dependable, virtually unheatable on home ground and possessed of a sufficiently tested method in the proof against embarrassment on unfamiliar territory. It students may get more transient fun from the Aston Villas or the Tottenham Hotspurs as their reading lists, they will surely know where to turn when (to employ a phrase many of them will recognize) they 'want the right result'.

Eric J. Evans

Dr Evans is senior lecturer in history at the University of Lancaster.

Japanese managers

Japan's Reluctant Multinationals: Japanese management at home and abroad

by Malcolm Trevor

Frances Pinter, £16.50

ISBN 0 86187 336 X

Although Japanese products from calculators and watches to cars have become part of everyday life in Britain, much less is known about the methods and operations of their makers. Do they have a distinctive pattern of management associated with economic success? Is it transplantable to their operations overseas? Are there likely to be lessons to be learned by British companies dispirited by relatively poor economic performance?

A good start on answers to these questions can be made with Dr Trevor's study of *Japan's Reluctant Multinationals*. Dr Trevor has a decade of working experience with Japanese companies and more recent involvement in research programmes at the London School of Economics. He does not offer either purely economic or purely cultural explanations of Japanese management success, but emphasizes that rational managers with long-term strategies can draw on a variety of social institutions and cultural patterns as organizational resources. For example induction and on-the-job training are that much easier in a society where students have long been encouraged to see themselves as group members and where the diffuse, blurred, open-ended model of the teacher-pupil relation means that any senior will feel the right to tell any junior what is necessary - and any junior feel obliged to listen.

Having set out his perspective in chapter one, Dr Trevor outlines a programme of studies which included a case study of a major trading company in the City of London, a questionnaire study, an interview study with managers (personnel, general, and plant) in 39 companies, and a series of case studies in two banks, two manufacturing companies and a trading company. Unfortunately the desire to preserve confidentiality means that the author is rarely able to lay out direct and systematic comparison across companies.

Before proceeding to an account of this research, Dr Trevor reviews the literature on Japanese management in Japan and illustrates the high degree of support which Japanese management enjoys in Japan from a variety of social institutions from government and the educational system to trade unions. Dr Trevor dislikes the portmanteau term 'management system' and prefers to look at the various components of recruitment, pay, promotion and seniority as management systems and to argue that in the Japanese case managers strive consciously to weld these components into a functionally integrated control system. Comparing Britain and Japan, he says there is relatively little opposition to management control in Japan, as a generalization it can be asserted that unions in the Japanese case, largely because of management's own efforts, do not pose such a threat to managerial control. This conclusion is

crucial to the book's main concern, for Japanese multinationals are reluctant to leave such a safe supportive environment and are only prodded overseas by fear of exclusion from world markets on which they depend.

Approximately half of the book deals with Japanese management in the UK. For those preoccupied by Japanese technology, it will come as a surprise that Japanese commercial companies from banks to trading companies are both more numerous and more significant for employment than manufacturing companies in the UK. Further, given the emphasis on management control and the widespread adverse comments on British industrial relations it might seem surprising that Japanese companies have experienced little difficulty with blue collar workers, and that problems have arisen mainly with white collar staff/management. The potential for conflict with British white collar staff lies in blocked career mobility as companies emphasize Japanese head office control, use expatriates in key positions, and adopt training practices which are organizational and task-oriented rather than local, individual and career-centred.

Trevor's discussion of the formal and informal processes in decision-making, the methods of consensus building through consultation, and the implications of an arm's length relationship for expatriates and local staff is particularly interesting. 'The undefined character of the consensus reflects the informal systems. These are both empirically hard for local staff to grasp and conceptually difficult for theorists who search for an intellectual framework which is lacking'. (p.157) Here one longed for an extended study of decision-making rather than the brief reports of claims and quotes from various studies. Nevertheless, Dr Trevor offers a helpful review and a convincing account of why Japanese multinationals are not multinationals in the sense that American or Dutch companies are multinationals. Given the emphasis on Japanese head office control, the depth of international recession, the fund of good will available to them in Britain and the validation of success, the companies are unlikely to change radically. Yet there is something which the Japanese can learn from this study: there is ample scope for improvement in orientation training for expatriates and management systems. Their difference in introducing Japanese methods and reluctance to come to grips with British methods can result in ad hoc compromises which fail to get the benefits of either Japanese or local practices.

Kevin McCormick

Dr McCormick is lecturer in sociology in the school of social sciences in the University of Sussex.

South-South Strategy, edited by Alistair

Onuoha, is published by the Third World Foundation for Social and Economic Studies at £5.95. It brings together a collection of articles first published in *Third World Quarterly* on the enduring aspects of North-South relations. Contributors include Julius Nyerere, Amil Jamal, Amartyo Sen and Ali Mazrui.

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September 1983, 404 pages, £22.95 cloth (£8.95 paperback)

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BOOKS

ECONOMICS

Reformist radicals

Contemporary Problems of Economic Policy: essays from the CLARE Group

edited by R. C. O. Matthews and J. R. Sargent

Methuen, £3.95

ISBN 0 416 34820 3

At a time when economic debate often appears to be polarized between two extremes, it is reassuring to learn that the voice of moderation is alive and well. In economic affairs the CLARE group (a group of prominent economists who first met in Cambridge in 1976) represents such a voice. In recent years it has consistently advocated a reformist but in many ways more radical economic policy than that adopted by the present government or proposed by the main opposition.

The 13 essays in this volume were originally published over the period 1977 to 1982 in the *Midland Bank Review*, although one or two contain a postscript which takes account of more recent developments. They represent the views of a distinguished group of economists on a range of macroeconomic issues. The 16 contributors comprise an interesting blend of some of the most able of the younger economists working in Britain today, together with several of the most experienced and senior members of the economics profession. They have produced here an informative, enlightened and challenging set of proposals for the reform of economic policy, which deserves a wide audience.

In their introduction summarizing the central issues of the book the editors detail the arguments for and against refutation. While opposing the "do nothing" emphasis in the present government's rhetoric, they do so from a perspective that acknowledges the importance of markets. They do not advocate throwing out the neo-classical baby with its bathwater, but rather propose reform to ensure that in some areas the market works more efficiently. In others, some of its less acceptable consequences are mitigated. In this, like many other economists working in Britain today, they owe something to monetarism, for it was monetarism that reminded us that we neglect market outcomes at our peril.

Part one, on macroeconomic problems and policies, contains an instructive set of essays which captures the developing views of the group. In these they advocate measured refutation, arguing persuasively that such a policy is unlikely to be frustrated by supply constraints or the cost of borrowing as many have claimed. However, they recognize that refutation could lead to further inflation if development is not unlikely, given the nature of the wage bargaining system. Indeed, they acknowledge that this system has already produced some classical unemployment, but instead of advocating its reform, they opt for appeasement and suggest protecting real wages via cuts in value added tax. This retreat is regrettable, but perhaps inevitable, for confronting the issue would involve both a considerable reduction in the role and power of trade unions, and substantial changes in ideas about what constitutes a fair wage for the part of both workers and employers.

Of the three parts of the book, the second, on manufacturing, and the third, on the service sector, are the most instructive. With the exception of the paper by Sargent, this part contains little that is new and that has not been analysed in more detail, and to greater effect elsewhere. Moreover, it reflects the groups' rather ambivalent preoccupation with the fate of manufacturing industry in Britain. It might have been more enlightening if they employed their considerable skills to analyse the productivity and

output performance of the public and service sectors.

If part two is disappointing, part three compensates with original and stimulating analysis of specific problems. In particular, two accessible and well argued essays highlight the economic inefficiencies and income distortions that arise in important areas of social policy. First, Mervyn King and A. J. Atkinson analyse the tax treatment of housing, and reveal that the enormous public subsidies in this area, amounting to perhaps £5.5bn in 1978, are haphazard and ineffective. The subsidies encourage over-investment in housing, at the expense of other productive activities, and vary with income in a way which has no clear economic or social rationale. Second, Atkinson, but now with John Flemming, analyses the effect of unemployment and social security payments on incentives to work. In a postscript they note that two of the proposals contained

in their original article have been adopted and that, partly as a result of this, the number of households better off out of work is now negligible. However, a further consequence of developments over the period has been that many more families in work find themselves in the poverty trap, facing effective marginal tax rates that, had they occurred at the top of the income range, would have evoked an instant response from this government.

Well written and persuasively argued, these essays will appeal to practising economists and interested laymen alike and it is only to be hoped that they have some impact on policy.

R. F. Elliott

R. F. Elliott is senior lecturer in the department of political economy, University of Aberdeen.

European agnostics

The Common Market: ten years after

edited by C. D. Cohen

Philip Allan, £14.00 and £6.95

ISBN 0 86003 055 5 and 150 0

These essays reflect the aftermath of excessive expectations on the part of pro-marketisers. Joining the EEC has clearly not reduced Britain's deep-seated economic problems; the "free ride" argument used by politicians was always always embarrassing to pro-European economists. Moreover, having declined to participate in the formation of the community at a time when it could have influenced policy, the UK joined when a questionable agricultural and financial policy had already been adopted, but its worst effects were yet to become apparent.

In an engagingly vituperative introduction, the editor leaves few economists or politicians unscathed. (He is especially critical of the Chicago school of free market economists as represented by Harry Johnson and Milton Friedman, and of Mr Edward Heath.) However, after examining the evidence, including the notorious Common Agricultural Policy, he does not side unambiguously with the anti-marketisers concluding that the effect of all the economic policies considered is trivial in relation to national income, and that wider political issues should determine national policy. But his discussion of these issues is too brief. Echoing de Gaulle he reminds us that the EEC is not Europe, which "is of importance for those whose vision of Europe stretches from the Atlantic to the Urals." Perhaps, but did de Gaulle's vision ever make much political sense? And if it is claimed that it does, we should be told more about the implications for policy.

Geoffrey Shepherd looks at the British manufacturing industry, and concludes that the EEC has not made much difference: British industry has declined regardless. This is a scholarly review of scholarly work, and his "agnostic" conclusion might seem (correctly) to the non-specialist to be unhelpful. If Shepherd had reviewed some of the more political views—such as the calculation by a white-collar trade union that the whole of British unemployment could be attributed to EEC membership—it might have been clearer that his conclusions do provide useful indications of feasible policy options.

On the subject of high technology Keith Pavitt finds that EEC membership as such has not done much to dynamize British industry but that there have been some promising developments, as well as disappointments, at the community level. He argues, in passing, that a protectionist policy for Britain would make matters worse. The chapter, "Agriculture: how familiar a burden?", reviews some familiar issues, but does not go into much detail on the current situation. On the effect of the CAP on retail prices, for example, it lists two figures, exasperatingly without headings drawn from various articles published between 1967 and 1977, but does not attempt to calculate a current figure (or figures, depending on the alternative envisaged).

Geoffrey Denton contributes a thorough review of taxation and the community budget, outlining the prob-

lems, especially for Britain, of the present system and the various proposed alternatives. Malcolm Crawford gives a clear account of the European monetary system, although his argument that Britain has adopted an "exchange rate target", as an alternative to the European system, may exaggerate the coherence of current stability and employment, indicating that while there has not been much all three in recent years, EEC membership can hardly be blamed.

While this symposium contains useful material for teachers, it may disappoint practical men seeking an analysis of what British policy should be. None of the authors believes in the protectionist economic policy preferred by the Labour Party, but their own views on policy are not always spelt out. However, if the main impression left by this symposium is of uncertainty and disillusion, this is not only too well the situation in the EEC.

Graham Hallett

Dr Hallett is senior lecturer in economics at the University College of Wales, Cardiff.

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BOOKS

ECONOMICS

Text for the 80s

An Introduction to Positive Economics, sixth edition

by R.G. Lipsey

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £16.50 and £8.95

ISBN 0 297 78264 9 and 78265 7

An Introduction to the UK Economy: a companion for Positive Economics

by Colin Horbury and R.G. Lipsey

Pitman, £4.95

ISBN 0 273 01957 0

The most significant changes contained in the sixth edition of *An Introduction to Positive Economics* occur in Professor Lipsey's treatment of macroeconomics. Previous editions dealt with equilibrium in the goods market on the assumption that income was the sole variable in the model. Money was discussed in isolation and no attempt was made to integrate the monetary and real sectors of the economy.

This new edition explores the interactions between these two sectors using the familiar IS-LM model. The aggregate demand function is then derived from this model and is combined with the aggregate supply function to analyse the determination of income assuming a variable price level. This enables the effects of supply and demand shocks to the system to be analysed separately. New chapters on monetary and fiscal policy deal with the comparative statics of shocks, within the IS-LM framework, that cause one-for-all changes in the price level, national income and the interest rate. The revised chapter on continuous rises in the price level also uses the same model to study the process.

In contrast to previous editions Lipsey's treatment of macroeconomics is both algebraic and geometrical. Although all the macroeconomic relationships are expressed in linear form and the mathematics involved does not go beyond the solution of simple simultaneous equations in two variables, some of the algebra is likely to appear formidable to the student studying macroeconomics for the first time. The standard goods market model found in previous editions is de-

veloped rapidly to include the government sector and foreign trade and the multipliers for these two, three and four-sector models are derived algebraically. For those students who feel uneasy with algebra there is a brief appendix which gives a more detailed geometric derivation of the IS-LM model using the four-quadrant diagram approach.

A highly desirable improvement is the total integration of the open economy into the models considered. Previous editions dealt with the international economy in isolation and almost as an afterthought. At the microeconomic level, the section on elementary price theory contains a chapter which uses production possibility frontiers to illustrate the gains from trade and demand and supply models to determine exchange rates. The complications which arise due to the openness of an economy are analysed throughout the macroeconomic sections. A new chapter on macroeconomic policy considers expenditure-changing and expenditure-switching policies to achieve the objectives of internal and external balance.

This edition also emphasizes the microeconomic underpinnings of macroeconomic models. New sections on short-run price-output decisions of oligopolistic firms and implicit contract theory provide the product-market and factor-market underpinnings respectively for the aggregate supply curve which follows. Another welcome feature is the expanded treatment of oligopoly which is probably the dominant form of market structure outside of agriculture and industrial materials.

The IS-LM model which forms the basis of the macroeconomics presented here can be described as neo-Keynesian and may not be acceptable to some monetarists. Lipsey's contention is that

since traditional monetarists have so far failed to provide a model that is fundamentally different this one comprehends both Keynesianism and monetarism. He rejects the neo-classical market clearing model with rationally formed expectations in the grounds that it does not describe the real-world behaviour of markets. Although the IS-LM model developed in this edition can be criticized for its naivety and crudity, it nevertheless provides a prototype version of the demand side of the economy which is used very frequently in macroeconomic models.

This sixth edition will provide students with a textbook which is highly relevant to the 1980s and which could be used throughout their undergraduate years. Many of the macroeconomic chapters, however, are likely to present a very real challenge to the average first-year student.

An Introduction to the UK Economy is an extremely readable, descriptive outline of the economy's institutions and functions. It is intended to complement *An Introduction to Positive Economics* by providing the factual and institutional background which Harbury and Lipsey consider necessary for understanding the relevance of economic theory. The topics covered include the organization of business activity, the structure of British industry, distribution, international trade and development, government and resource allocation, national income and balance of payments, money and banking and growth and stabilization policy.

J.F. Bradley

J.F. Bradley is lecturer in economics at the Queen's University of Belfast.

Imposing efficiency criteria

Microeconomic Efficiency and Macroeconomic Performance, edited by David Shepherd, Jeremy Turk, Andrew Silberton, Philip Allan, £13.95
ISBN 0 86003 049 0

It is no longer quite so comforting to seek solace in the "quality of life" when considering Britain's economic performance. For while it is true, as Brian Reddaway argues, that outcomes have been fairly favourable over the longer term surely the past decade has witnessed a sharp deterioration. One would like to believe, pace Reddaway, that the problem is mainly one of the level of pay but on the evidence marshalled here it is difficult to believe that this is so. Cultural attitudes, institutional structures and public policies have all contributed to both relative and increasingly absolute economic failure.

Were these outcomes inevitable? This book provides interesting insights into many of these issues and is thus valuable as a contribution to the debate on policy, as well as a useful summary of present knowledge. Whether it succeeds in integrating macro and micro analysis is quite another matter. Unfortunately it is still true that we know too little about the basic functioning of the economic system and indeed one of the things we ought to be doing, as the French are currently, is putting substantial resources into applied microeconomics. Poor macro policy, of which Britain has had more than its fair share, has its origins in failures of understanding and even of interest in the microeconomic foundations of the system.

What these essays do is to develop and then apply to the conduct of policy in its varied aspects a complex notion of efficiency, including therefore many of these basic axioms of welfare economics. Theoretical economics thus provides the essential framework for assessment, both of the aims of policy and of its outcomes, and as such often found wanting even under highly restrictive conditions. Even so standard concepts of efficiency and of welfare economics when applied to policies and outcomes are very enlightening.

The two opening chapters deal with efficiency at the firm level. There is repetition here and elsewhere in definitional aspects of the problem, but also interesting observations. McGuinness provides a standard criticism of markets (and pro-market policies) and makes the often forgotten point that capitalist industrial policies require similar values in the populations affected for their success. For Silberton it is the quality of leadership which matters, and this is much more crucial for firm growth, so he argues, than the macroeconomic environment.

Three further papers apply efficiency criteria to conventionally assumed areas of policy failure. Turk denies the sense in trying to impose simple notions of efficiency to the highly complex and varied institutions of the labour market. Since such institutions serve multiple ends it follows that policies aimed solely at raising efficiency are unlikely to succeed. Nicholas Stern reviews the literature on efficient tax and so highlights the strengths and weaknesses of economics—good at static analysis applied to competitive markets, but less useful for designing a tax structure suitable for generating growth and development. Shepherd shows that the arguments that excessive levels of public expenditure and public sector borrowing requirement financing are central to the efficiency problem is largely unproven.

Rounding off the core of the book Revall provides an excellent survey of the financial system and convincingly identifies the existence of both structural and allocative inefficiency. Such distortions have been increased in recent years. In his view, by policies which rely on monetary targeting, And Lyons, in a chapter on trade, argues for openness of economic systems thus confirming with some caveats the standard doctrine. But he does, rightly, make the other fundamental observation that Britain's external problems are a symptom of economic inefficiency and not their cause.

Altogether a useful set of essays which raise as many questions as they answer. Some lighter editing would have eliminated overlaps and more integration of micro and macro aspects of policy was really required. Is it fair to leave it to the reader to make so many of these critical connections?

C. D. Cohen

C. D. Cohen is reader in economics at the University of Sussex.

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Research & Studentships cont

university college of swansea

Research Studentship

Applications are invited from recent graduates in politics or modern history for a research studentship in PROPAGANDA AND PUBLIC OPINION IN 20th CENTURY POLITICAL HISTORY tenable for up to three years as from 1 October 1983 and enabling the holder to study for the degree of PhD of the University of Wales under the supervision of Dr D. G. Boyce and Dr R. Taylor.

Further particulars are available from Dr R. Taylor, Department of Politics, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP.

City of Birmingham Polytechnic

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS (TWO POSTS)

Required to work on a 3 1/2 year BSC supported project on the application of dynamic simulation to mechanical systems. The project is funded by the Science Research Council and is part of a larger project.

Applicants should have a BSc in Mechanical Engineering or Applied Mathematics, and a minimum of two years' experience in the field of dynamic simulation. Successful candidates will be offered a salary of £10,000 p.a. plus benefits.

For informal discussions contact Dr R. Taylor, City of Birmingham Polytechnic, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT. Tel: 091 555 5555.

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Southampton THE UNIVERSITY

Research Assistant

A good honours graduate is required to work on the aerodynamics of slender bodies in free flight at hypersonic speeds. The investigation will involve the use of a wind tunnel and the successful candidate will be expected to undertake applicable research.

The post is tenable for one year in the first instance, and it is expected that the programme will extend to three years dependent on progress.

The successful applicant will be expected to register for a higher degree and the salary will be on the Research Assistant Grade 10 scale of £8,310-£8,830.

Applications, together with curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent to Professor K. M. C. Gray, Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, University of Southampton.

University of Oxford

Christ Church RESEARCH LECTURESHIPS

The Governing Body proposes to elect two Research Lecturers in the Sciences and two in the Humanities for the year 1984-1985.

A Research Lecturer must be well qualified to engage in original research in his or her field, and to perform some definite research or administrative work. Research Lecturers are appointed to men and women.

Appointments are for two years, renewable for a further two years. The salary scale is £10,000-£12,000 p.a. plus housing allowance of up to £400 p.a. and a pension of up to £1,000 p.a. in the discretion of the Governing Body.

Further particulars and applications forms may be obtained from the Secretary, Christ Church, Oxford OX1 2DP. Tel: 01865 275000.

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Don's diary

Monday

A monkey's wedding. A strangely satisfying marriage of brilliant sunshine and rain that is captured by this evocative phrase from my childhood. But the rain is soon over and the devastating drought continues.

Meeting with vice chancellor and university librarian about an innocuous book on South Africa, access to which (because the author, long deceased, was once "listed" as a subversive) the librarian has restricted - unreasonably in the view of an incredulous sociology lecturer who wants his students to read it. The vice chancellor is confused. I argue (erroneously) that the librarian has misunderstood the Internal Security Act and then (forlornly) that he ought to interpret the law liberally - in the interests of "academic freedom".

The librarian almost bursts out of his safari suit. "Are you suggesting that I should break the law?" he gasps. He is unimpressed to belong to the *Broader* and appears to have a hot-line to Pretoria, yet I cannot help thinking that (like so many Africans) he is a "good" man bristling with "good" intentions.

Lecture the constitutional law class I have inherited from a colleague who is abroad on sabbatical (which are, by comparison with Britain, extraordinarily generous). I pontificate on the evils of the first-past-the-post electoral system and the wonders of PR.

Tuesday

Not a cloud. On my way to the university the newspaper placards speak of proposed reductions of the daily water ration from 400 litres per household to 50 litres per person. But even this would be luxury for the thousands of Africans who have no running water at all (let alone, of course, electricity).

Animal Week. Students have organized five days of activities to publicize the horrors of vivisection. I need little persuasion: it is one issue that has distinctly unhealthy effects on my blood pressure. I agree to write a piece for a Sunday newspaper, but find myself wondering (in classic white guilt-ridden fashion) whether in this society - animals are not of limited importance. Decide that cruelty and exploitation must be condemned unequivocally.

Against my better judgment, I devote the whole (instead of the planned ten minutes) of my jurisprudence lecture to a repudiation of the grotesque argument, currently gaining support among liberal lawyers and being enthusiastically advanced by the press and Official Opposition, that the new constitution should incorporate a Bill of Rights. It is a singularly naive view. My thinly veiled case for majority rule occasionally sounds less like a lecture than an oration. Not a satisfactory end to the day.

Wednesday

The students' union nominate Nelson Mandela as the new chancellor of the university. Alan Paton says he will withdraw as a candidate rather than stand against Mandela. Some of the students who have boycotted the university are now back. A thoroughly unsatisfactory result. On Monday, the students' union read even the essentials. Descended to desultory, oversimplifications of "infrastructure" and "superstructure". Everyone seems happy with it - except me: these are postgraduates; many in their sixth year of university. The school system spawns wholly passive learners which the universities do little to change.

A black student interrupts my feverish scribbles on "Does a dog have rights?" to tell me that "he really enjoyed" yesterday's jurisprudence lecture.

Thursday

Jacarandas beginning to appear. They and the sprays of bougainvillea are, even to my colourblind eyes, breath-takingly bright. Still not the slightest

prospect of rain.

Attend "University Forum" (a weekly guest lecture) delivered by a sociologist from Wits with whom I served on the students' union of Wits, but whom I haven't seen since I left South Africa 13 years ago to settle (I thought forever) in Oxford. He reports on some empirical work he has done in respect of young Soweto blacks and whom they look to for leadership. The answer, in general, seems to be the ANC. Though there are a number of questionable features about his methodology (even to a mere lawyer), his efforts style impresses me.

Invite him for dinner on Sunday.

Friday

Seven am. Awakened by monkey sprinting boisterously across the roof. This troop of vultures are regular visitors from the nature reserve which abuts our house.

Lectures begin (as does life) at an unconscionably early hour. First class is at 7.45 am. Nine o'clock lectures in England were an especially painful ordeal that I sought annually (with limited success) to avoid; yet here I have adapted remarkably swiftly to uncovering the mysteries of the *Grundnorm* at this ungodly hour.

Invigilate a constitutional mid-year examination. Watching 90 heads beat in apparent concentration over scrawled scripts, I reflect on how I would fare in the exam. I have, since taking over the course, engaged in a rapid relearning of much that I had forgotten.

After a rather heavy-going (and barely edible) lunch with colleagues, attend a meeting of the law faculty board which is over mercifully soon. On the way out, one of the members, a senior and likeable judge, tells me of the quip he plans to use in tonight's Moot Final. We chuckle dutifully. (My relations with the judiciary have become a little strained since my inaugural lecture in which I argued that moral judges should resign.)

The Moot Final is something of a gala occasion which attracts several hundred people (not confined to the local legal fraternity). Even the vice chancellor attends. Three "real" judges sit on the "bench" as final-year students argue hypothetical cases before them. The legal points are, in large measure, lost on the vast majority of the audience who wait eagerly for judicial interjections which are calculated both to amuse the public and to embarrass the contestants.

Saturday

Take dog for walk (I walk, she runs) on wide stretch of deserted beach with the city skyline in the distance. Return home to a depressing pile of unmarked constitutional law scripts.

Roof-wetting party in the evening. An architect friend has completed building his own house. No dancing (and) so spent the evening moping along a Cabernet Sauvignon.

Sunday

The newspaper devotes two full pages to the subject of vivisection. A colleague who has been to visit the place where the experiments are carried out, reports that the animals are always prepared to receive recognition, however meagre, from scientists.

Armed with a picnic we accompany friends to an "international" polo match between South Africa and the "British Isles". First time I have watched the sport and it turns out to be unexpectedly exciting (in spite of the unimpressive amount of the action one can actually see). Delighted when Britain wins 7-5.

Speed home to receive Wits sociologist friend (and his charming girl friend) for dinner. He is anxious to discuss strategies the English language universities might adopt in respect of the recently enacted "Quota Act" which imposes racial quotas on their

Raymond Wacks

The author is professor of public law and head of the department of law at the University of Natal in Durban.

There are ominous signs that commitment to research in the United States is flagging. Between 1965 and 1977, total national expenditure on research and development as a proportion of the Gross National Product declined by 24 per cent, rising only about 1 per cent between 1978 and 1980.

Equally ominous, perhaps, is the fact that the funding for university research is tilting away from government and toward private corporations. Until now, university research has been modest. In 1978, for example, industry gave only an estimated \$45m to universities for research. This figure was less than 3 per cent of higher education's total research expenditure that year, and it represented an actual decrease from 1960, when corporate support stood at 5.5 per cent. By 1982, industry was spending more than \$200m annually in support of university-based research. This is only 4 per cent of the federal expenditure - but it is a rapidly growing percentage.

Universities in the United States are increasingly turning to the private sector as federal research support declines. And business is responding. In 1974, Monsanto began a 12 year \$23m project with the Harvard Medical School for research on the molecular basis of organ development.

In 1981, Dupont announced \$6m to the Harvard Medical School for genetic research; Hoechst, the West German chemical giant, gave \$50m to the Harvard-affiliated Massachusetts General Hospital for medical research; ten companies contributed \$7.5m for a new computer centre at Stanford; Control Data, Burroughs and Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing research up to \$5m for computer research at the University of Minnesota; and Exxon announced \$1m project on combustion research at MIT. Monsanto and Washington University announced in June 1982, \$23.5m collaboration in biomedical research.

Donald Kennedy, president of Stanford University, described these and other developments as signalling "a new era in university-industry relations." For universities, the new relationship meant access to much-needed sources of funding. For industry, it meant access to university laboratory discoveries that could lead to important new products.

Still, there are those who worry

Sapping the strength of universities



Ernest Boyer

about these new alliances. The corporate world, by its very nature, seeks higher profits. Hence, "basic" research, in which universities excel, will be most attractive to corporations if its potential uses seem to be profitable at the outset. This prior commitment to the utility of research conflicts with what basic research is all about.

Industrial secrecy and competition within business have a chilling effect on university-wide access to new knowledge. In the past, issues of secrecy have been confined largely to classified defence-related research. Most universities have dealt with the problem by rejecting such contracts except in wartime. The secrecy issue in any industry-university alliance is equally troublesome. Protecting commercial or industrial discoveries may be necessary in a competitive market-place, thus undermining the open exchange of research findings so fundamental to an academic setting. Clearly, any commercially-imposed restriction on research would not only violate the principle of academic freedom but could inhibit the university's emphasis on free and open inquiry.

Traditionally, academic researchers in the US have relied on a built-in system of peer criticism and evalua-

tion. Networks of academics seek the investigative process, scientific new work, share ideas informally at professional meetings. The goal is continuous quality control; but the system does not work if information is withheld from discussion and publication.

A still greater danger is that research initiatives could shift from the individual scholar to the corporate manager - and that the professional freedom of the scientist might be linked to his or her ability to please the patron. That is, other ability to ask questions.

The involvement of commercial organizations in university-industry research is potentially compromising, or many expect it to increase.

Universities don't just produce knowledge - which many other places do - but, on the campus, research becomes synonymous with a quest for truth. There is a precious quality to this university characteristic of a time when knowledge itself is increasingly politicized to support preselected positions and special interests. Therefore, it would appear that the most valuable links between academic research and American industry would involve only research that can be pursued under the full control of the investigator whose success is judged by academic peers.

Those who seriously entertain the idea of allowing higher education's research function to diminish or shift to other sectors need to be reminded that the campus is where future scholars are prepared. Scholarly inquiry, Professor Thynne Booth of the University of Chicago has argued, is a tradition that has a continuity that cannot be interrupted without serious, perhaps irreparable damage. It is conceivable that by 1990, there will be no young professoriate; a link in the chain will be missing.

Without a adequate support, we face a grim prospect of losing a generation of scholars that can never be replaced. Thus, much is at stake when higher learning's dominant position in research is threatened. Scholars in increasing numbers may be enticed to leave their university positions in favour of more lucrative and less onerous jobs in industry. If accelerated, this trend would not only undermine the research strength in research itself, it would draw the most valuable talent away from campuses, thus compounding a vicious circle.

local democracy is a means by which, within a broad national framework, people can better ensure that their personal wishes are reflected in the provision of services to themselves and their local community. It also provides an important counterweight against the centralized state, where the pressures for growing uniformity are today as much the result of changes in technology and transport as they are of changes in political philosophy.

But to all of this, present conservative ministers claim there is a considerable consideration, namely that the level of rate-borne expenditure - in some Labour authorities is so substantial that it is undermining the Government's overall economic strategy. What nonsense this is. Both for individuals and for companies, rates as a tiny proportion of expenditure, however visible they may appear.

My own study, two years ago, showed that there was no correlation between levels of rates and levels of unemployment. The Government has never disputed these findings, and Michael Heseltine, then Environment Secretary, refused to conduct a similar study of his own.

Moreover, the increase in taxation has been far greater proportionately than the increase in rates. And in central London with what the Government at first did to industry, the impact of rates has been trivial. The loss of jobs to principal rates, a continually overvalued currency, and by cuts in public expenditure which have, not least, damaged order books and jobs of private industry.

If local authorities had some abolished rates, most firms would not have not been able to ward off Government-inflicted attacks.

That other proper Tory, Ted Heath, once castigated a Labour Government for "distorting to local authorities" by "should run local affairs as they would". He said, "people are disillusioned with the way our democracy works". Despite its authority, Mr. Heath's words are not so far from the truth. Mr. Heath would do well not to ignore

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